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## The Journal of Commerce

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**Treasury Financing in Second Half of Fiscal Year.**

By H. M. P. Eckardt.

**Breakfast Foods Analyzed.**

By Prof. R. Harcourt.

**British Trade Activity**

By W. E. Dowding.

**Conditions in the West.**

By E. Corn Hind.

**British Purchasing Commissions.**

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## The Ottawa Parliament House

WE venture to renew the suggestion, contained in a recent article, that the work of reconstruction of the Parliament House at Ottawa is one of the undertakings that can most advantageously be postponed until after the war. The more, this idea is considered the more it must commend itself, we believe, to the thoughtful public, irrespective of party lines. Immediately after the burning of the old building it was somewhat hastily assumed that immediate reconstruction was necessary for the proper carrying on of the public business. At that time it was a work of extensive repair that was contemplated. Now, under circumstances that are much debated and which need not be discussed here, the old building, excepting the Library portion, has been demolished and the work to be undertaken is that of complete new construction. Meanwhile the members of Parliament and the public have found that, so far as the carrying on of the public business is concerned, there is no such urgency as was at first presumed. The Government were fortunate in having in the Victoria Memorial Museum a stately structure which, with a little temporary interior alteration, became admirably adapted to the purposes of a temporary Parliament House. In the important matters of light and ventilation the members of the two chambers are really better served than they were in the old building. The accommodation for committees and for members is quite good in all features except that the temporary erections for walls are incomplete and not sound-proof. There is less opportunity than usual for confidential interchange of views on the premises. Perhaps the public service will be none the worse if for a while more things are done in the open and fewer in the secrecy of solidly constructed apartments. There is, no doubt, some inconvenience in having the departmental offices of the Government further than usual from the Parliament House. But that is not a very serious matter. The experience of most countries is that departmental and legislative buildings are not connected. The departmental offices of the Imperial Government are not in the Parliament House at Westminster. They are scattered, and some of them probably as far from the Parliamentary chambers as the Ottawa departments are from the building in which our legislators are temporarily housed. In Washington the offices of the President and Cabinet and some of the important departmental buildings are far away from the capitol. There is no inconvenience in this respect in the present situation at Ottawa beyond what is usual in both London and Washington.

It does not seem then that there is any urgency whatever in the work of rebuilding the Ottawa Parliament House. Of course, all Can-

adians will desire that at the proper time Canada shall have a new Parliament House, with all the architectural beauty of the old one and better adapted to the needs of a growing Dominion, a structure which in design and accommodation will be compatible with the dignity and importance of the country. But surely this is not the best moment for proceeding with such a work. In many parts of the country works are proposed which, their promoters are told, must be postponed until after the war. If there is one public work which more than others can with propriety be postponed it is the new Parliament House. Nobody will suffer on account of the delay. To proceed now with the work, when labor and materials are costly, will involve a much larger outlay than would be required later. Besides, at a time when the authorities and the public are looking ahead with a view to providing employment for those who will need it after the war, it seems to be clear that this large work should not be undertaken now, but reserved, so that it may play a useful part in the trying time of unemployment that must come soon after the war. If a further argument for delay is needed, it is furnished by the recruiting situation. There is urgent need for more men for the war. At Ottawa two battalions have been for more than a year vainly struggling to obtain the number required. Could anything be more foolish than at such a time, and under such conditions, to take hundreds of able-bodied men to work on a building that is not required?

## The Hyphenated Voter in the Presidential Election

THE election contest in the United States is nearing its close. On Tuesday, November 7th, the voting will take place. Every election for high office in the United States is warmly contested. The present one is not an exception. But it will be correct to say that the battle soon to be decided has not been as keenly fought as some of those of former years. Possibly this is in part due to the fact that the candidates of the two great political parties are men of recognized ability and high character, and that among moderate men there is a widespread conviction that the election of either of them will give the Republic an official head who will fill the chair with honor. Of course, the extremist on either side persuades himself that the election of the man he is opposing would be a calamity, but saner men will see that with either Mr. Wilson or Mr. Hughes in the chair of the President the Republic will live and prosper. The impression of the independent looker on has been that with a practically re-united Republican party behind him Mr. Hughes has a good prospect of success. President Wilson and his