

seven for the administrative buildings, were prepared by fourteen competitors. Various major styles of architecture were considered, but renaissance or neo-gothic was chosen. A centre block for Parliament, and two blocks flanking it on east and west, for the Administration, were planned. For the East Block, to house a principal part of the Administration offices, the design of Messrs. Strant and Lavers was awarded the prize.

On September 8, 1859, the Department of Public Works invited builders to submit specifications. The plans could be studied at Quebec, Ottawa and Toronto as from October 15th. Twenty-one sets of specifications were submitted for the Parliament Buildings and twenty-nine for the East Block. The construction of the latter was entrusted to Messrs. Jones, Hancock and Company, for the sum of \$278,810, and February 1, 1862, was set as the date of completion. Excavation work was begun in December, 1859. The first stone of the East Block was laid in 1860, during the visit of the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII) by Miss Hancock, the builder's daughter, who for a long time retained possession of a small silver trowel and level used on that occasion. Work was carried on until, by October 1, 1861, funds were exhausted. It was resumed a little later after a Commission had been appointed under the Great Seal of the province, on June 21, 1861, to investigate the various questions raised by the construction of the buildings, and the administrative methods then practised. The Commission proposed that the remaining work be entrusted to the original contractors and paid according