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Old Post Office Building to Be Sold at Highest Bid After New Structure Is Occupied January 1

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Trenton's old Post Office building, State and Montgomery Streets, no longer adequate to care for the heavy increase of business, will be knocked down to the highest bidder by the United States Treasury Department—after the new building has been occupied.

That should be some time after January 1, 1933, when all departments of the old building will be transferred to the handsome new structure at East State and Carroll Streets, which is now nearing completion.

It is expected that the new building will be finished by November 1, but present plans of officials do not call for occupancy until January 1.

Whether sale of the old structure will be conducted in Trenton or in Washington has not been disclosed. Erected during an era of stolid and gloomy architecture, the building resembles a fortress or a high-class jail. It has deeply-set windows, great quantities of cornice-stone and loads of tile and other ingredients.

The ceilings are exceptionally high. This together with the peculiar style of the windows, has resulted in a sort of all-time hazy twilight in the offices, no matter how brightly the sun shines.

But the limited space, of course, has been the great drawback. Files have increased to such an amount that they have had to be stacked in the corridors, almost up to the tall ceilings. It is necessary to use a ladder to get to the top ones.

Running the whole length of the corridor on the second floor, where the court clerk's offices are located, is an alley of files. In sub-corridors are additional files, so that one's impression is a veritable forest of dusty files.

The courtroom on this floor is small, poorly ventilated and entirely inadequate for its function. When a trial is in progress, everybody seems scrambled together. It is hard to differentiate between Government attorneys, counsel for the defense, witnesses, defendants and jurymen.

On the third floor, a similar crowded condition exists. Here too, the inevitable files stand gloomy and neglected in the corridors. Clerks have to do a lot of walking to get their routine business out for the day.

The courtroom on this floor is not so unattractive. As a matter of fact, it is richly decorated with genuine mahogany. Whether the Government will sell this valuable wood piecemeal or include it in the whole job lot is not known.

While sitting in this court, the average person does not realize that above his head, right on top of the sky-lights, are more files. To reach these it is necessary to climb a flight of stairs to the fourth floor, where a ladder has been built against the wall. It takes a person with some nautical experience to get up this ladder.

Even then he is not out of danger. He must walk on a system of planks, laid across the sky-lighting plan, to where the various documents are located. A misstep and he is likely to find himself in the lap of the prosecuting attorney, down below in the court room.