

# TEN STORIES HIGH

Such Will Be the Proposed New  
City Home.

## TWO STORIES UNDER EARTH

The City Likely To Trade with the  
Venable Brothers.

## BOTH PROPOSITIONS DISCUSSED YESTERDAY

And the Plans in Detail as Well as  
Outline Were Talked Over—A  
Meeting Friday Afternoon.

The present indications are that before the end of March 1897 the city's officials will be housed in a magnificent ten-story building, a building constructed of Stone mountain granite and steel, and as absolutely fire-proof as a building can be made.

The special committee from the general council, Mr. Inman, chairman, Mr. Woodward and Mr. Thomas, met yesterday to confer with the Messrs. Venable relative to the propositions those gentlemen had submitted. In addition to the members of the special committee, Captain Clayton, city engineer, was present on the part of the city with plans and figures showing the amount of floor space the city would require and the manner in which it would have to be divided to accommodate the city's necessities.

It was in response to a request from Mr. Inman that the estimate was made by Captain Clayton, the city engineer, and a most careful estimate it was. The engineer, in making the estimate, duplicated for the benefit of the parties at interest, and when Mr. Inman called the meeting to order, a copy of the estimate was in the hands of the Messrs. Venable, as well as in the hands of Mr. Inman and the members of the committee.

Mr. Sam Venable laid upon the table before Mr. Inman a photograph of the architect's designs for the building the Venable brothers contemplated erecting on the old capital site. The photograph showed a building of magnificent appearance, with an attractive and imposing entrance on Marietta street and almost as fine entrance on Forsyth street.

"That," said Mr. Sam Venable as he laid the photograph upon the table, "is as near our designs as we have progressed, but it is not near complete. That shows a building superior to anything in Atlanta and inferior to nothing in the south. But that is not as imposing as the building we are going to erect in Atlanta. There are many details not shown in that photograph, which will enhance the real worth of the building. It will be constructed of Stone mountain granite and steel, and will be absolutely fire proof, at least as near fire proof as it is possible to make a building." Captain Clayton's estimate of the space the city would need was presented. The estimate showed that Atlanta would need for all purposes 40,000 square feet of flooring.

"That," said Captain Clayton, "means nearly four floors of the building."

The estimate showed that each floor would contain 12,000 square feet and that two of them would be necessary to supply the demands made by the military of the city. It showed the number of square feet the mayor's office would require and the space requisite for a good commanding council chamber. The estimate read: Mayor's office, square feet, 1,200; council chamber, square feet, 3,000; comptroller's office, square feet, 1,200; tax assessors, square feet, 1,200; marshal's office, square feet, 700; clerk's office, square feet, 1,000; collector's office, square feet, 600; water-works, square feet, 1,200; committee public works, square feet, 600; sanitary, square feet, 600; electrician, square feet, 300; building inspector, square feet, 300; city engineer, square feet, 1,200; military, top floor, square feet, 12,000; military, next floor, square feet, 12,000; basement; water-works shops and storage, square feet, 1,200; committee on public works, storage, square feet, 400; charitable association, square feet, 600; total square feet, 70,100.

"If the city wants pleasant and commodious offices, offices that the conditions existing require, it will take all that space," said Mr. Clayton. "Of course, the city can crowd itself and consume less space. You all know the demands made upon each of the departments as well as I do, and you can judge for yourselves whether there is a waste of space anywhere there."

"And where can we locate these offices?" was asked.

"The city can have any part of the building, on either proposition we have submitted," said Mr. Venable, "except the first or ground floor."

"The two floors," said City Engineer Clayton, "you will observe, have been set aside in that estimate for military and—"

"But will the military need that much space?" asked Mr. Inman. "Two floors?"

"That's about it," was Captain Clayton's reply. "It will take one floor for the drill hall and another for the companies of the regiment to have for storage of arms, uniforms and other property."

The members of the committee discussed the location of the council chamber, the mayor's office and the offices for the other officers and in the discussion moved them from the second floor up to the top and back down again. One of the many propositions made appeared to catch the entire committee. It was the location of the council chamber on a floor, the floor, however, not designated, with the offices of the mayor, the city clerk, the city comptroller, the city marshal and others around it, the council chamber occupying all the floor except an even and uniform width to be cut off all around for offices.

Light for the council chamber and ventilation, too, as well as both of these requisites for each of the offices and committee rooms, were discussed. Mr. Venable explained the plan to show that the wide alley on the south side of the building would give light and ventilation enough for a stranger not to appreciate the fact that the building was not really alone and unsurrounded.

"What about vaults for the papers?" asked Mr. Inman.

"The building," said Sam Venable, "will be fireproof. It will be built of Stone mountain granite and steel. Steel for three or four of the stories is here now. It would be almost impossible to build a vault for some of Atlanta's papers, but they can be provided with apartments as good as a vault. How would you put Engineer Clayton's maps and other paper of that kind in a vault?"

"Atlanta," said Mr. W. H. Venable, "has papers that could never be replaced if they were destroyed by fire. A million dollars would not cover that loss. In fact, the loss could not be replaced in some instances."

"The flooring," said Mr. Venable, "will be in keeping with the rest of the building. We are going to put a building there of which Atlanta will be proud and which will be a great advertisement to us."

"There are several parties who are anxious to get a chance to furnish the city with apartments. Only today, since dinner, I received a letter from Mr. James, who wants to make the city an offer," said Mr. Inman.

"We are willing," said Mr. Venable, "for the city to hear from every one and if the city can do better than we offer we will gladly retire from the contest and give up. We are satisfied that no one can do better than we have offered, however. We will put up a building that will be as imposing, if not more imposing than the Equitable. It is about the highest point in the city and right across from the post office. In that very immediate neighborhood more large buildings, public and private, are going up than at any point in the city. It is in the very heart of the moving people of Atlanta. I mean by that the people who must get out to attend to any kind of business."

"Now, the truth is, gentlemen, we are putting up that building as an advertisement of our Stone mountain granite and it is from that we expect a recompense, and not from the proposed lease or sale to the city. Why, do you know that the very fact that the statehouse, the capitol, was built of oolitic lime stone has cost us thousands of dollars? Well, it has and we want to

put this building here to show what the stone is."

"I think," said Mr. Thomas, "that we should give Mr. Day and his committee an opportunity to hear the plans."

"That suits us," said Mr. Venable, "we have nothing whatever to conceal and will be delighted to have Mr. Day and his friends present."

Mr. Thomas thought the plan a good one and expressed a friendly feeling for either of Mr. Venable's propositions. Mr. Woodward suggested that a lease be recommended for five years with the right to purchase then."

"We can't do that," said Mr. Sam Venable. "We have agreed to fit the building up to suit the designs the city may suggest upon either of those propositions. We can do it on a ten-year lease, but not a five-year lease. It's like papering a room on a thirty-day rent. But the two can be mingled so that we can, I think, agree. At the end of the five years the city can acquire bonds on which she will be drawing an interest."

Mr. Inman suggested that the committee adjourn to meet Friday afternoon.

"We can invite Mr. Day and his special committee," said Mr. Inman, "to be here with us and invite the city attorney. Then, if we all agree, as we appear to do now, and Mr. Day and his associates fall in line we can instruct the city attorney to draw a contract between Atlanta and the Messrs. Venable, which we can submit to the council Monday as our report. I think that's the best."

The other members concurred with Mr. Inman and an adjournment was obtained.

The two propositions of the Messrs. Venable were printed in yesterday's Constitution.