

CHICAGO'S GREATEST COMMISSIONER.

Visit of Mr. Richard W. Woulfe of Chicago to Ireland.

On Sunday, Mr. Richard W. Woulfe, who, until his resignation before the recent Mayoral election, filled the important position of Commissioner of Public Works in Chicago, will arrive at Cobh on a visit to his old home, "The Glen," Cratloe, Abbeyfeale. During his term of office in charge of the second city in the United States, Mr. Woulfe left a permanent and beneficent mark in the natural structure and institutions of that remarkable city. Son of the late Mr. Richard E. Woulfe, a man of rare intellectual powers, and an authority for many years on West Limerick history traditions. The old man was succeeded by Mr. Maurice R. Woulfe, retired Inland Revenue Supervisor, brother of the Commissioner, and father of Mr. Maurice J. Woulfe, solicitor, Abbeyfeale. When a young man, Mr. Richard W. Woulfe was intended for the Civil Service, but elected at the age of sixteen to exercise his ability in the more expansive area of the United States.

The following, which appeared recently in the *Chicago Herald and Examiner*, gave a brief outline of Commissioner Woulfe's life in "Who's Who in Chicago." Mr. Woulfe has travelled much, but has not visited his native place for the past twenty-five years:—

"RICHARD W. WOULFE.—Commissioner of Public Works, lecturer on political economy and economies of the day, is a native of Limerick, Ireland. When a lad of but sixteen years, he landed on American shores filled with ambition to become a leader of men, and came direct to Chicago, where he has since resided.

"While he worked by day, his nights were spent studying at night school, and he completed his education with a course of the University of Chicago, afterwards lecturing on economy and political economy at MacLean College. He is also author of a book on 'Culture' and the law that passed the State Legislature several years ago naming our language the American Language. Early in life Mr. Woulfe worked as fire insurance agent and reporter on the old *Stockyards Daily Sun*. Finally he entered the business of real estate and loans in 1893, which is his business to-day.

"He has served as President of the Cook County Real Estate Board; was a member of the first Chicago Zoning Commission; Secretary of the Illinois Lakes to the Gulf Deep Waterway Commission, of which Mayor Thompson was Chairman, and in 1927 was appointed Commissioner of Public Works.

"Richard W. Woulfe is a man who 'makes dreams come true.' One of the greatest dreams of Chicagoans was the straightening of the Chicago River, and this dream came true the past year, breaking down the Chinese wall between the West and South Sides, reclaiming some five square miles of real estate, and which enables the building of giant structures over the tracks of the various railroad terminals.

"The public improvements constructed during Mr. Woulfe's tenure of office are too many to be recorded here. A few of them are: Completion of the William Hale Thompson and Thomas Jefferson pumping stations, five bascular bridges with six more under construction, twenty-two fire houses, the South Clark St. police station and courthouse, nurses home, Goose Island incinerator plant, Chicago Ave. tunnel, costing £2,600,000, saving the taxpayers £600,000; Western Ave. tunnel, costing £900,000, with a saving of £140,000; fourteen new playgrounds, the Woulfe plan of street re-surfacing, which will save the taxpayers £12,000,000; the speaker's bureau of the Department of Public Works, which has given more than 600 addresses from the Gold Coast to the Stockyards and from the University of Chicago to outlying districts, besides innumerable radio talks, all with a view to telling the truth about Chicago and overcoming the campaign of slander. Mr. Woulfe is a member of the Chicago A.A., South Shore and Bridgeman Country Clubs. He says his favourite sport is work. He lives at 6930 South Shore Drive with Mrs. Woulfe and his one child, a daughter, Mrs. Ned Hume McCormick."

TRALEE NEW SEWERAGE SCHEME.

WORK STARTED TO-DAY.

LOCAL LABOUR TO BE EMPLOYED.

Tralee, Tuesday.

Work on the new sewerage scheme for Tralee started in Dominick St. this morning.

The scheme, for which the contract price is £2,585, will include the following districts: Dominick St., The Square, Rock St. (as far as the railway crossing), Walpole's Lane, Chute's Lane, Boherbee; Connor's Lane, do.; Sullivan's Lane, do., and O'Connor's Lane, do.

The contractor is Mr. Gerard B. Dillon, of Thomondgate, Limerick, who is already well-known in Tralee having previously executed similar work for the Tralee Urban Council satisfactorily and expeditiously.

Interviewed by our representative this morning, Mr. Dillon said that the non-arrival of the necessary piping had made it impossible for him to employ more than a few men at present. He added, however, that when it did come more men would be given employment. "Local labour," he said, "will be employed, and the local rate of wages—1/- per hour—will be paid."