

RICHARD W. WOLFE

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

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CHICAGO, March 30—Richard W. Wolfe, former Commissioner of Public Works and for more than fifty years active in the business and civic life of Chicago, died today in South Chicago Community Hospital. He was 84 years old.

Mr. Wolfe had been retired for more than thirty years. He dropped his active business career in 1914 when the late Mayor William H. Thompson appointed him Building Commissioner. He was also a member of the city's original zoning committee.

As Commissioner of Public Works, Mr. Wolfe was credited with having begun the straightening of the Chicago River and having built a water filtering plant for the city.

Born in Althea, Ireland, he came to the United States as an immigrant youth in 1885. He was a descendant of Gen. James Wolfe, conqueror of Quebec.