

ALUMNI

John J. Sloan

With the completion of the Wacker Drive, the people of Chicago gained a great thoroughfare but lost a Great Builder. This man worked day and night to complete the beautiful two-level drive along the river. His efforts were well-rewarded for he saved the tax-payers \$500,000 by completing the \$24,000,000 project last October, six months ahead of schedule. Unfortunately, this great public-spirited engineer broke down his health and passed away after accomplishing the greatest achievement of his career.

Hard work as well as hard rock figured prominently in the life of John Sloan. Although he had a college education, it was obtained some years after he had worked his way along in the world. His first job was with a railway supply manufacturer in Chicago. Subsequently he became paymaster for Nelson Morris. His interest in civic affairs took him to the City Hall from the Stockyards. There his first position was chief clerk of the special assessment department. Then the "wanderlust" seized him and for several years he mined in Arizona and Idaho.

When Carter Harrison became mayor, he sent to Arizona for Mr. Sloan and made him Superintendent of the House of Correction and also of the John Worthy School, a home for wayward boys. The conditions at these institutions were substantially bettered during the seven years under Mr. Sloan's direction. He built an incinerator at his own expense to demonstrate its advantages. His geological knowledge, obtained in the West, enabled him to uncover a good grade of stone on the city's property. He developed this deposit and built a crushing plant which is still in operation.

After his marriage to Miss Margaret Fredericks, of Chicago, Mr. Sloan filled some of the gaps in his earlier education by attending night school at the Armour Institute of Technology.

He became interested in the Wisconsin Granite Company in 1905 and was its secretary and general manager until his death. Under his management this company has grown until it now occupies and operates fourteen quarries scattered from Wisconsin to Georgia and from New York to South Dakota.

In 1923, former Mayor Dever persuaded Mr. Sloan again to enter public life as President of the Board of Local Improvements. In this position Mr. Sloan became executive head of all the new street and bridge work and all of the improvements included in the great municipal undertaking known as the Greater Chicago Plan. Mr. Sloan's engineering and operating experience coupled with his executive ability were a very valuable asset to our great city, and we join with the people of Chicago in their grieving over the loss of a Great Builder.



JOHN J. SLOAN