

THE history of the school dates from June, 1825 when, as a result of a public meeting, the "Liverpool Mechanics School of Arts" was established. At first the school's work was confined to evening classes, held in and old chapel building in Sir Thomas Street, on a site on which the Education Committee's offices were built in 1898.

On July 20th, 1835, the foundation stone of the present building was laid by Lord Brougham, and on its completion in September, 1837 it was opened as a school for boys. In 1856 the School was re-named the Liverpool Institute and its educational scope extended.

Provision was made for instruction in preparation for University degrees, this new department being called Queen's College, the forerunner of the University College, which afterwards developed into the University of Liverpool.

### Great Advantages

At a meeting of the City Council on June 3rd, 1903, the following letter was submitted from the Directors of the School:

"To the Town Clerk, Liverpool.

"Sir,

"The passing of the Education Act, 1902, has created possibilities for the future of Secondary Education in Liverpool, which my Directors heartily welcome. They rejoice to think that Parliament has endorsed the belief, which they, in common with so many other educational bodies, have long held, that the provision of Secondary Education should rank among the duties of the municipality; and they have every confidence that the Act of 1902 will be so administered in Liverpool that great advantages will accrue to that branch of education.

"As the Governors of the oldest Secondary School in Liverpool, my Directors have had the possibilities of the future under very careful consideration, and have endeavoured to arrive at a right conclusion as to how far



Mr. Lawrence Holt, J.P.

The Chairman of Liverpool Institute High School is a member of the well-known Liverpool family and is a partner in Messrs. Alfred Holt & Company. He was Lord Mayor of Liverpool for 1929-30, and represented St. Peter's Ward in the City Council from 1913 to 1923, as a Liberal. Mr. Holt is a Justice of the Peace for the City of Liverpool, and is also Chairman of His Majesty's School Ship Company. He has served on the Coal Mines Re-organisation Commission, and was a Trustee of the National Maritime Museum.

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# THE LIVERPOOL



(Photo—R. A. Pugh)

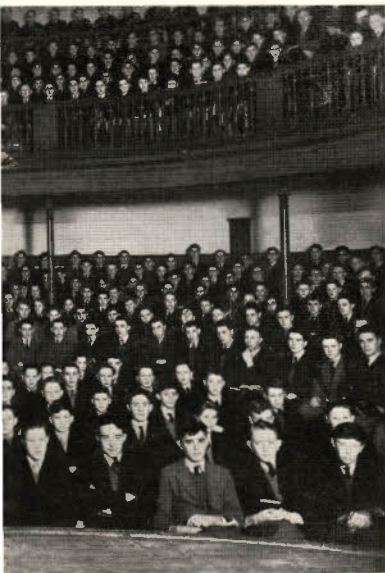
it may be in their power to assist the Education Committee of the City Council in the arduous work which lies before it.

"As a result of those deliberations, they have concluded that inasmuch as the Liverpool Institute is a Public Trust, promoted and carried on purely and simply for the benefit of the citizens at large, they cannot give better evidence of their desire to promote the common weal than by offering to transfer the entire Institution to the City Council, which offer I have now the honour of submitting to you . . . .

"In submitting this offer to the City Council, my Directors are particularly anxious to avoid anything which could, by any possibility, be construed into an attempt to drive a bargain. But they feel that no such con-

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# LIVERPOOL INSTITUTE



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struction could be placed upon their attaching the following conditions to their proposal...

## 88 Provisions

The only conditions of permanent importance

- (1) that the School should be conducted on undenominational lines in accordance with the tradition of the Institute and the intentions of the founders;
- (2) that all the funds should be devoted exclusively to the Institute.

The City Council accepted this munificent offer and on May 22nd, 1903, at a ceremony held for the purpose at the Town Hall, Sir Francis Danson (on behalf of the Directors) presented the title deeds to the Lord Mayor, representing the Corporation of Liverpool.

The new scheme of management required (among its 88 provisions):

- (1) that the Education Committee of the Liverpool City Council shall be responsible for the maintenance of the Foundation, shall control its property and income, and may determine generally the type and character of the education given in the School;
- (2) that the Foundation shall be administered by eighteen Governors, including *ex-officio* the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Liverpool, the Chairman of the Education Committee, and fifteen representative Governors, of whom at least three shall be women.

This is the scheme under which the School still works—and long may it continue to do so! The intervening years since 1903 show a steady and progressive enlargement of the School's work, with the opportunities it affords now thrown open to every boy in the city capable of profiting by a secondary education without regard to his parent's means or social status.

## Persistence

The zeal and persistence of a group of public-spirited businessmen 120 years ago founded the School: today it is still the same zeal and loyalty to the cause of education on the part of the Governors that enables the School to carry on in the same spirit of courageous experiment.

The School has always been fortunate in the men and women who have served it. The names of its Directors and Governors are synonymous with those of Liverpool's leading citizens—the Holt family (George, Alfred, and Philip; and at the present day Lawrence Holt, Chairman of the Governors), James Alsop, Burton Ellis, Eleanor Ruthbone, Florence Milly, and so on.

There can be few schools so rich in scholarship and prize funds, or in the gifts bestowed

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## Mr. J. R. Edwards, M.A.

The Headmaster of the Liverpool Institute High School since 1915, was educated at Manchester Grammar School and University College, Oxford. Mr. Edwards has held appointments as Assistant Master at Hothing's Grammar, Cligwell and Merchant Taylors' Schools, and prior to taking up his present post at the Liverpool Institute, he was Headmaster of Worsham County School. He is a member of court of Liverpool University, chairman of the Teachers Advisory Committee, Liverpool, and chairman of Division XII of the Incorporated Association of Headmasters

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### THE LIVERPOOL INSTITUTE *(Contd. from page 11)*

on it by public-minded citizens. For example, the present Chairman of the Governors has given to the School its Gymnasium, its Library and Prefects' Room and its organ in the School Hall. He has further endowed a travelling fund to enable masters and boys to enlarge their knowledge of the languages and modes of life of foreign countries.

One can only hope that the cramping tendencies of modern administration will not stifle the impulse to beneficence of this sort.

Freedom is the very life blood of progress, and an artificially-imposed uniformity for the sake of administrative convenience can only result in a dull mediocrity. That it is only in an atmosphere of freedom that real development is possible is illustrated by the success attending the work of two of the greatest of the School's headmasters—Reverend John Septon (1866-1898) and H. V. Whitehouse (1903-1925). Old boys speak with respect and affection of them both.

### Old Boys

The number of old boys who have won fame is legion: a few may be mentioned. Of those no longer living: Sir Donald Macalister of Tarbert (died 1934), physician and University administrator; Lord Mersey (died 1929), Judge of the High Court; Sir Henry Roscoe (died 1915), chemist; Sir Archibald Salvidge, K.B.E. (died 1928) politician and civic leader; Sir Charles Snypley (died 1922), singer; James Ward (died: 1925), philosopher.

Of the living may be mentioned Sir Richard Burn, C.S.I. (Indian Civil Service); Sir Frank Baddeley, K.C.B., C.M.G., and Sir John Inghell (Colonial administrators); James Laver, author; Sir John Morris, C.B.E., M.C., Judge of the High Court.

But proud as it is of its sons who have achieved fame in their careers, and of those who year by year win scholarships to the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge and Liverpool, the School would not be judged by them alone.

It must stand or fall by the boys it sends out each year into the professional, the commercial and the industrial life of Liverpool; and it need not fear the challenge of any other school on this point.

Of games and other activities there is little space to say much: the School has two playing fields, one of five acres in Sefton Park and the other of eleven acres in Mersey Road, Alburgh. The great size of the School and the distance of the field from the School make it difficult to give every boy as many games as he would like, but, as far as the weather permits, every afternoon in winter and summer—and every evening as well in the summer—up to 60 boys can be found enjoying organised games under staff supervision. Soccer and hockey are played in the winter.

### "For Every Taste"

In one of the School playgrounds there are also two five courts, there is an efficient contingent of the Junior Training Corps (160 strong), a Squadron (No. 995) of the Air Training Corps (50 strong); and societies to cater for every taste, ranging from sixth form debating society and the chess club (several times winners of the Inter-School Challenge Shield), to the philatelic and transport societies!

For all internal competitive activities the School is organised on a "house" basis.

The School has always had a strong connection with the Universities and its Honour Boards bear the names of many of its pupils who have won their way with scholarships to these seats of higher learning. At the moment there are about 25 old boys at Oxford, about 15 at Cambridge and almost 100 at Liverpool Universities.

The rolls of honour for the two Great Wars show that from 1914-1918 278 old boys lost their lives, and in the recent war more than 80.

Music has always had a prominent part in the School life and before the war two operas of Vaughan Williams were performed—"The Poisoned Kiss" and "Sir John in Love." Since the war concert versions of "The Gondoliers" and "Tantivy Towers" have been given.

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