

Evening Express

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 1931.

WHAT WE THINK.

The King.

THE news of His Majesty's indisposition has caused a wave of apprehension throughout the country, for although the bronchitis from which the King is suffering is of an extremely mild type, the nation and the Empire has not forgotten that trying time two-and-a-half years ago.

There is, however, no cause for alarm. The bronchial affection is more in the nature of a late winter cold on the chest, but nevertheless with His Majesty's predisposition to chest troubles, everything possible will be done to lessen the severity of the present attack and restore that physical vigour which has characterised the King throughout the winter.

The nation hopes that His Majesty will be quickly restored to health again.

SOLVING A WEIGHTY PROBLEM.

BIRMINGHAM and haggis can have nothing in common, yet an important decision has been arrived at there which will affect the genus haggis for generations to come. So serious, in fact, is the decision that it may materially alter the breed and do considerable damage to the stock.

It appears that the Empire Marketing Board and the retail trade have not, for some time, been able to agree as to how big a haggis should be, and as the result of yesterday's important and far-reaching deliberations it has been agreed that the standard haggis should weigh one pound.

Every Scotsman worthy of the tartan will be rightly indignant at this attempt to standardise the haggis. Is other national game standardised? Do we attempt to limit the proportions of the Lancashire hot-pot or the Yorkshire pudding? Not a bit of it. But the haggis must weigh no more than a pound. We consider that this is taking an unfair advantage of something that has no acquaintance with the English tongue, and doubtless it will not be long before the first protest meeting is held north of the Tweed in an effort to prevent this gross commercialisation of so sacred a thing.

After all one standardised dish is sufficient, and we already have a national grouse!

SIGNPOSTS from the WORLD'S GUIDE BOOK.

O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in Him.

Psalm 34, 8.

"ON THIS DAY"

JOHN THE GOOD KING OF FRANCE.

Death of John the Good, King of France, April 8, 1364.

THE average Briton has not worried his head much about French monarchs. One or two of them outstand in memory, particularly the un-

Makers of Merseyside.—4.

LIVERPOOL'S FIRST PHILANTHROPIST.

BRYAN BLUNDELL AND THE BLUECOAT SCHOOL.

ABOUT the middle of the eighteenth century, Liverpool emerged as the principal outpost of the kingdom, and while recording the mercantile enterprise of her leading citizens of that period, we must not overlook the influence exerted upon posterity by merchants who devoted themselves to charitable and similar ventures.

Philanthropy has been a traditional characteristic of Liverpool men of commerce ever since the Blue Coat Hospital was founded by Bryan Blundell in 1709, the year in which our first Dock Act became law.

A descendant of the Blundells of Wince, this liberal friend of Liverpool's poor children was born in 1674. After a sea training, he sailed from the Mersey as captain, ultimately purchasing and commanding his own craft.

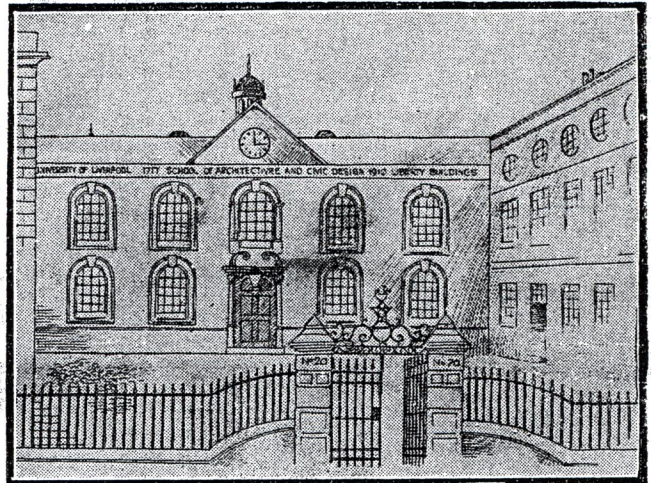
Destitute Children.

A rigorous and venturesome seafaring life, however, did not prevent him, when ashore, from observing the wretched and destitute conditions under which many local children lived, and, encouraged by the Liverpool Rector, Robert Stythe, he endeavoured to alleviate their sufferings by establishing a school. This was erected in 1708 near the southeast corner of St. Peter's Churchyard, public subscription providing funds for the daily education of 50 boys under a master engaged at a salary of £20 per annum.

During one of Blundell's absences at sea the Rector died, and the school became neglected. The generous mariner had subscribed £250 from his hard-won earnings over a period of five years, and upon returning from sea noticed "some of the children begging about the streets, their parents being so poor as not to have bread for them, which gave me great concern, inasmuch that I thought to use my best endeavours to make provision for them, so as to take them wholly from their parents, which I hoped might be promoted by subscription."

Tenth Part of His Wealth.

To this end he gave up the sea and raised by an appeal nearly £3,000, of which £750 was given by Blundell himself. Thenceforward, he resolved to give to the School a tenth part of his worldly wealth. In 1718 the building was



completed and, although since altered and improved, still stands in School-lane.

Bryan Blundell became a successful and highly respected merchant, occupying the mayoral chair in 1721 and 1728. His contributions to the School and other charities kept abreast of his prosperity, and for 42 years Blundell was treasurer of the Blue Coat Hospital, until his death, at 82 years of age, in 1756.

Such in brief was the career of Liverpool's first real philanthropist, whose charitable efforts have since been emulated by a long line of local men of commerce.

Perhaps at this juncture we may appropriately insert a notice of mercantile prosperity devoted to encouragement of the arts.

Two years after Blundell's death there settled in Liverpool a native

On This Page Tomorrow.

Which Counts Most—Beauty or Brains?
By MADELEINE CARROLL.

of Prescott, John Wyke, who first established watchmaking on a large scale on Merseyside. He first resided in King-street, having as neighbour Thomas Bentley, who later became partner with Wedgwood, the famous potter. John Wyke was noted for the excellence of his watchmaking tools and instruments, also for clocks, on the dials of which appeared such familiar mottoes as "Time wasted is existence, used is life"; "O

time! than gold more sacred"; and "On time's uncertain date man's eternal hours depend."

The watchmaking industry prospered, and Wyke removed to more commodious premises near Diglane (now Cheapside), where the present police headquarters stand in Dale-street. Here he built a house, factory, warehouses, stables and outbuildings, the whole forming a quadrangular court, entered from Dale-street, and carried on an extensive business, which included that of banking.

First Art Exhibition.

In 1769 Wyke was one of the principal promoters of a society for local artists and dilettantes, which held its first art exhibition five years later, being the first of its kind in the provinces and a progenitor of Liverpool's great displays of art and sculpture today.

John Wyke was also instrumental in establishing the Dispensary, in John-street, for affording medical relief to the poor, a building being taken later for this work in Church-street.

The Blue Coat School and other charities found him a generous benefactor.

This contemporary of Roscoe, Rathbone, and others whose names are writ large in Liverpool history, died in 1787, being buried at Prescott. Picton has described John Wyke as "a man probably little known beyond his immediate sphere, but who within that sphere fulfilled all the duties of a good citizen and exercised a beneficial influence in his day and generation."

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