

GOVERNOR HALL VISITS THE LEPERS

Says Sight of Sacrifice by
Sisters There Must In-
spire Reverence.

STATE SHOULD HELP

Experience Was Not Unpleasant,
and There Is No Danger to
Callers.

A day in the leper colony was the novel experience of Governor L. E. Hall yesterday. It was his first visit to this interesting Louisiana state institution at Indian Village, Iberville Parish, not far from the line of the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railroad, from which point the party drove through the delta country to the state reserve.

And the experience was not at all unpleasant.

"I shall not hesitate to go again, and hope to visit the institution several times before my term as governor expires," was his reassurance.

GOVERNOR'S FIRST VISIT.

Persons connected with the Leper Home for many years say it was the first time they had ever seen a governor of the state within the confines. Governor Hall was given a most enthusiastic reception, was entertained at dinner in the old plantation home building now occupied by the sisters and was shown many courtesies. In fact Governor Hall's stand for an increased appropriation for these poor unfortunates at the last session of the Legislature won for him the love and admiration of every one, either attached to or confined in the institution. His visit therefore was made the occasion of an unusual day at Indian Village. The whole place was in gala attire. It was their first opportunity to show their appreciation.

Governor Hall, General F. F. Myles, member of his military staff; P. E. Burks, president of the board of control; J. W. Phillips and John Ponder, members of the board, and Dr. Hopkins, attending and visiting physician at the home, returned to the city last evening, the governor reaching the Grunwald Hotel at 7 o'clock.

"There is a mistaken idea," remarked Governor Hall, "that a person takes great risk in visiting the Leper Home. Nothing was further from the truth. The institution is so arranged and conducted that a person can go there and inspect everything about it with perfect safety. We did not feel the slightest uneasiness. The sisters have a house segregated and apart from the other buildings, which was formerly an old plantation home, which they have made as comfortable as their limited means would admit, and where visitors can be received in perfect safety."

Governor Hall and party were met by Father Keenan, the chaplain, and Sister Benedicta and others in authority and made welcome. The last Legislature increased the usual allowance sufficient to erect a kitchen, dining-room and laundry, and these splendid buildings are now in course of construction.

INSPIRES REVERENCE.

"I do not see how they have ever done without them in the past," said Governor Hall, "and when one goes there and sees what these devoted people are doing for the inmates it inspires a reverence and admiration which cannot be expressed in words. There are now eighty-three patients in the home. The devotion of the sisters and Father Keenan in caring for them is simply wonderful, and I cannot express my full appreciation at this time of what they are doing for the whole people of the state by their self-sacrifice. It is a living death for everyone who enters and leaves the life and world behind."

"The Leper Home has not received

the care and attention at the hands of the state in the past which it deserves, and now that I have seen it and spent a day among the people who have given up their lives for the care of these afflicted, I am going to do all within my power to see that the state gives more of its public funds to help in a small degree to add to their comfort while living. If they can give up their lives, it does seem to me that we, the people of this state, should give more freely of our money for their comfort.

"The Leper Home deserves all and more than we will ever do for it. If there was only some way of getting the people to go there and witness for themselves the self-denial and sacrifice of the sisters who have gone there to devote the remainder of their lives in nursing the afflicted, conditions at the home would be very different."

After devoting the morning to looking over the properties in detail, guided by Father Keenan and others, Governor Hall and party were entertained at dinner in the home of the sisters.

BOARD OF CONTROL MEETS.

Then followed a meeting of the Board of Control, of which body P. E. Burke is chairman. Other members of the board are: Lawrence Fabacher, John Ponder, John W. Phillips, Dr. J. P. Bringer, Alcea Bechnel, Henry Barthel, J. D. Hanlon and W. A. Pleale, now resigned.

Only matters of construction and improving the home were considered. There was no effort to reorganize the board, which had been rumored. The present board, while appointed by Governor Hall, has never been organized under his administration, and it was reported that possibly some reorganization might be effected, but the present officers have been elected until October, and they will not be disturbed in the tenure of their office until that time, and possibly not then.

Governor Hall was entertained at dinner last evening. He will return to Baton Rouge this afternoon.