

## VICTORIAN LABOUR COLONY.

The "Argus" reports the visit of the Governor of Victoria (Sir Reginald Talbot) to the Leongatha Labour Colony. He was accompanied by his private secretary (Captain Fitzpatrick), the Minister for Lands (Mr. Murray), the Surveyor-General (Mr. Reed), and the ex-Director of Agriculture (Mr. Williamson Wallace), under whose supervision the work of the Labour Colony has been carried on for more than twelve months.

His Excellency saw the morning's milk separated, and the milk from six of the cows tested by the Babcock tester. The milk of all the cows on the colony is tested in this way at least once a month. It is possible, therefore, to ascertain with certainty the quantity of butter fat in the milk. Next the party was shown the pigs of the establishment. They are a splendid lot of Berkshires. There are 30 breeding sows. In addition, there are 30 other pigs being fattened, and over 100 suckers.

At the present time there are 83 men on the colony. When the men assembled for dinner, His Excellency took the opportunity of meeting them, and of addressing a few words to them. He expressed the hope that while they were in the colony they would be comfortable, and that when they left they would obtain permanent employment. The dinner, which was ready cooked, was inspected. It consisted of soup, boiled beef, potatoes, cabbage, bread, suet pudding, and tea. It was explained that the morning meal on the colony consists of porridge and milk, meat, bread, and tea. The evening meal includes a little meat, bread, and tea. The men on the colony get as much bread as they can eat, and 11-5lb. of meat a day. All the food is produced on the colony, with the exception of the tea and sugar. The average cost of food during the last six months amounts to 3.2½ a week per man.

In the garden the party found a good crop of tomatoes and other vegetables, which are being sold to the townspeople. Owing to the prolonged dry spell in Gippsland, it has been found necessary to irrigate the garden. A supply of water is obtained from Coalition Creek. It is pumped into a large open reservoir on the hill. From this reservoir pipes are laid on to the dairy, the piggeries, the stables, the garden, and the men's quarters. In this way it is possible not only to irrigate the garden and orchard, but to flush out the dairy and the piggeries. A supply of drinking water is provided from the roofs of the stables and barns.

A careful scrutiny of the books was made by His Excellency, who expressed himself pleased with what he had seen. He then signed his name in the visitors' book. The party was served with lunch in the manager's cottage. The whole of the articles on the table, with the exception of the sugar and salt, were the products of the farm.