

SAYS FREE SUGAR WOULD RUIN STATE

Governor Hall Would Keep up the
Price of Sugar to Consumers to
Save Louisiana.

Washington, March 5.

(Special.)—Whether the Democratic Congress, which is to convene in special session April 1st, is to pass a free sugar bill and place other products of Louisiana on the free list or reduce the duties thereon, the Democrats of that state will remain Democrats, declared Governor Luther E. Hall today.

"But" said Governor Hall, "the sugar growers will not merely be injured by a free sugar bill; they will be ruined. There is not a more sturdy body of farmers or men generally any where on earth than the men of Louisiana. They have survived disaster and calamity in a way that has won admiration of the entire country. A few years ago the boll weevil swept down upon the cotton crop and ravaged the fields with a loss of \$250,000. The farmers and the cotton growers faced their loss with courage. Just a short time later a freeze that visited the state caused damage to the sugar crop to the extent of \$15,000,000, and then last year came the overflow of the Mississippi, which caused widespread damage. All of these calamities have drawn upon the reserve energy of the people—they have withstood their losses and risen superior to them; but no community, no state can meet calamity after calamity and continue to live. With the reserve power of the state almost exhausted by disasters, it would be strange if it could stand another man-made calamity.

"Free sugar would mean the ruin of the sugar industry in Louisiana. Had it not been for the disasters that have come to the state in the last few years Louisiana would have enough in reserve to meet a free sugar bill, but with its energy almost exhausted, it cannot hold up under another legislation that would destroy

one of the largest industries of the state.

"I believe that Congress should give every state a chance to live. If it puts sugar on the free list it will absolutely destroy that industry in Louisiana. I do not believe that Congress wants or intends to do that."