

Mr. Des Vœux has referred, in paragraph 132 of his letter to two public officers, Mr. Crosby, the Immigration Agent General, and Dr. Shier, the Inspector General of Estates Hospitals, as "sufficiently high-minded to speak out what they know," and as "having peculiar means" of acquiring information. Mr. Crosby was at the head of the Immigration Department during the whole period of my government, except when acting as Judge, when Mr. Gallagher, 1st Sub-Immigration Agent, acted in his place. It was Mr. Crosby's duty to make full reports, semi-annually, for transmission to the Secretary of State; and Mr. Des Vœux describes him as "a thoroughly upright, conscientious, and indefatigable public officer." Was Mr. Crosby entirely ignorant that cruelties were being practised on the immigrants without let or hindrance; or, being aware of these abuses, did he conceal the fact of their existence? Dr. Shier also made half-yearly reports on the Estates Hospitals, which were referred to the Immigration Agent General, who again reported on them to the Governor. These reports are all on record, and a reference to them will show that I did not fail to examine them most carefully, and that I gave prompt attention to every complaint. I must observe that, if Mr. Des Vœux's allegations are correct, no one is more censurable than the Immigration Agent General and the Sub-Agents who visit the estates. I have already cited Mr. Des Vœux's opinion of Mr. Crosby, and I have no hesitation in affirming that Mr. Gallagher and Mr. Firth were zealous and humane officers, whose reports will do them credit. Having made the foregoing preliminary observations, I shall proceed to notice such of Mr. Des Vœux's statements as appear deserving of attention. The first subject discussed, is the system under which immigrant labourers are provided with medical attendance and proper comforts in sickness. On this, as on other subjects, it would be inferred from Mr. Des Vœux's letter that he had been vainly endeavouring to introduce remedial measures, and that although the remedy was "simple" he could not get anyone to listen to him. In the 10th paragraph of his letter, he states that he had urged this simple

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