

gested. Much, no doubt, remains to be done ; but I contend that improvements of every kind have made rapid progress on the estates generally ; and if this statement be correct, then Mr. Des Vœux's letter is calculated to mislead. Mr. Des Vœux is of opinion that the large savings of the Indian labourers is no proof of their prosperity, but rather an indication of their "penurious habits." No doubt an Indian labourer is accustomed to a much more "meagre diet" than a Negro or a Chinaman, but if he had higher wages he would not live any better.

Mr. Des Vœux has referred to me as having obtained a popularity among planters, by my administration and legislation, with a view to lessen the value of my opinion, which he justly anticipated would be very different from his own. A reference to the correspondence with the Secretary of State and to the debates in the Court of Policy would prove that, on many occasions, I differed in opinion with the planters on matters affecting their interests. I hope and believe, however, that they gave me credit for supporting those views which I thought to be right. The legislation was carefully considered by the Land and Emigration Commissioners in England, and finally approved by the Secretary of State. As to my administration of immigration matters I need only remark that when any specific charge is made I shall be ready to meet it, and I have no doubt that the records of the Government Secretary's office and of the Immigration Department will furnish evidence on anypoint that may be raised. The opinion of Sir Philip Wodehouse is desired by Mr. Des Vœux, who is confident that he would allow the possibility and even, perhaps, the probability of the truth of his statement. I am equally confident that neither Sir P. Wodehouse nor the Bishop of Guiana, who is likewise appealed to, would make any such admission. The medical system has not been altered in the points on which Mr. Des Vœux has arraigned it, since Sir Philip Wodehouse administered the Government. Many improvements, in details, were introduced in the Consolidated Immigration Ordinance of 1864 ; and Mr. Des Vœux admits the fact of sanitary

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