

inference. Under the head of "personal experience," Mr. Des Vœux has referred, in paragraph 40, to the removal of a clerk. This case, like many others, affords an illustration of Mr. Des Vœux's tendency to view every question entirely with reference to himself and to his own personal convenience. The fact is that Mr. Yewens, clerk of the district in which Mr. Des Vœux was acting temporarily, was on a leave of absence, which was very shortly to expire. The *locum tenens* who "had been educated after great trouble," by Mr. Des Vœux, had been strongly recommended to me for promotion by the Inspector General of Police in whose force he had served. A vacancy occurred in the County of Essequibo, which, in the public interest, and on a report of the Auditor General, it was absolutely necessary to fill without delay. I selected the individual who had been a mere acting clerk, and who would have lost his acting appointment in a few weeks for the permanent office, and I did not comply with Mr. Des Vœux's request, urged with a good deal of pertinacity, to sacrifice the public interest to his convenience. I appointed, as Acting Clerk, a young gentleman, who of course, had no acquaintance with the routine of a Magistrate's office, but who was otherwise as competent as any other new clerk.

There are a few other personal references to myself in Mr. Des Vœux's letter; but as they have no bearing on the general question of immigration, I shall abstain from comment on them unless called on for explanation on any point by the Secretary of State.

I have some hesitation in noticing Mr. Des Vœux's remarks on the subject of the mode of defraying the cost of introducing immigrant labourers. Long before Mr. Des Vœux came to the West Indies, and at a time when the question might fairly have been considered an open one, especially in the Windward Island Colonies, with which I was then connected, I had advocated the propriety of throwing the whole cost on the planters. This was the policy advocated by those in England, who have always been the special protectors of the labouring classes. It is well known that the planters, on the other