

Governor was so sub-servient to the planters, that he would be ready to change the district of any magistrate who became obnoxious to them. The facts, whether distorted or not by Mr. Des Vœux, only prove that the law for the protection of the immigrants was rigidly enforced in the cases cited, and I feel assured that it will appear, on enquiry, that there is not the slightest foundation for the inferences drawn from them.

It has never been imagined, I presume, by any intelligent person, that upwards of 40,000 indentured labourers can be subjected to the restraints which the system renders necessary, without occasional acts of oppression on the part of the managers and their subordinates. The precautions taken to prevent the ill-treatment of the immigrant labourers would be unnecessary, if implicit reliance could be placed on the temper and discretion of the employers. I have no doubt whatever that the most serious acts of oppression are committed by subordinate agents, especially by the class known as drivers. A person unacquainted with the colony of British Guiana, could draw no other inference from Mr. Des Vœux's letter, than that acts of oppression were, as a general rule, condoned by the magistrates, by the Immigration Agent General, and by the head of the Government, and that he himself was the only person who had protected the oppressed immigrant labourers. I have no doubt that other magistrates will be examined as to their mode of dealing with complaints, and I feel assured that there are few magistrates in the colony who have not had occasion to punish *employees* on the plantations, for offences against the labourers. I particularly recollect cases in which Mr. Frazer and Mr. Plummer passed severe sentences for such offences, without incurring any enmity from the planters, and I do not hesitate to assert that the imputations against the magistrates, of being under the influence of the planters are wholly unmerited. I appeal to the records of the Immigration Department to prove the promptitude with which every complaint made by immigrant labourers was investigated, and redressed when proved to be well founded.