

appointments at half-salary from England, and I am persuaded that it would be most injurious to the public service if a rule were laid down that no matter how satisfactorily an Acting Magistrate were to discharge his duties, he would have no claim to promotion on a vacancy. Mr. Des Vœux has referred, in paragraph 26, to the power which the Governor possesses, and which it is obviously necessary that he should possess, of changing the districts of Magistrates when the interests of the public service render such a course necessary. He alleges that "it is generally believed" that these changes have been made for the reason that the particular Magistrates subjected to them were obnoxious to the planters; and in paragraph 27 he expressly states that, "to avoid the loss consequent on possible removal, the Magistrate has an inducement to curry favor with the planters." The imputations against myself in all that Mr. Des Vœux alleges regarding the Magistrates are so serious, and so utterly at variance with truth, that I shall find it necessary to enter into a good deal more detail than I could desire in order to refute them.

A few weeks before I left British Guiana, the twelve Stipendiary Magistrates were (with one exception, Mr. Baird, who retired on superannuation while absent in England) in the Colony. I shall give their names, as far as I can recollect, according to their seniority:—Mr. W. H. Ware, Mr. J. D. Frazer, Mr. Humphreys, Mr. Baird, Mr. John Daly, jun., Mr. Broadhead, Mr. Des Vœux, Mr. Huggins, Mr. Plummer, Mr. Dampier, Mr. Tucker, and Mr. Charles Cox. Of these, the six first named were appointed prior to my assumption of the government. Mr. Ware was never removed from the district in which I found him. Mr. Frazer, after having had for many years charge of an important district (A), was, at his own request, promoted to be Sheriff of Berbice, on the retirement of Mr. McSweeney on superannuation. Mr. John Daly succeeded Mr. Frazer in district A, having been removed, at his own request, from the Demerara West Coast. Mr. Humphreys is still in Essequibo, where I found him. I do not think his district was ever changed during my administration, and

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