

ECOS DEL DIA.

Interpretando un deseo unánime de este departamento y de toda la provincia, tan unánime, que hasta hoy la opinión del segundo alcalde don Francisco J. Riesco es el único voto que se ha exhibido en contra, el rejidor don José T. Ramos propuso en la última sesión municipal un proyecto de acuerdo a fin de que la corporación se dirijese a los senadores y diputados de la provincia, pidiéndoles que sancionasen con su voto el proyecto de lei tendiente a establecer una Corte de Apelaciones en Valparaíso.

Agregaba la indicación del señor Ríos la idea de solicitar del Ministerio de Justicia que impulsase con su propia iniciativa la discusión del referido proyecto, a fin de que fuese cuanto antes le de la República.

Desde luego, la oportunidad del acuerdo propuesto por el señor rejidor de nuestra municipalidad, no puede ser más visible: —la reforma de la organización judicial del país es uno de los asuntos que hoy ocupan al Congreso, y para el cual ha solicitado lo preferentes su labor el Presidente de la República; aun en estos preciosos momentos la orden del día de la Cámara de Diputados es la discusión de un proyecto análogo al recordado por el señor Ramos— la creación de una Corte en Valparaíso.

La única oposición que ha encontrado en toda la provincia la Corte de Valparaíso, —la oposición del señor Riesco,— tiene, pues, por fundamento, no la inconveniencia relativa de crear ese alto tribunal, es decir, no la inconveniencia de crearlo en estos momentos, sino la inconveniencia absoluta. El señor Riesco cree que la Corte de Valparaíso en sí misma inconveniente, o por lo menos innecesaria.

El señor Riesco no ha de permitir asegurarse que esta deplorablemente equivocada, —talvez porque nunca se ha tomado la molestia de estudiar un poco la insostenible organización de nuestro mecanismo judicial. No es que queramos decir al señor Riesco que se ha mezclado en un asunto que no entiende; es simplemente que deseamos insinuarle la utilidad de penetrarse debidamente de un proyecto, antes de combatirlo.

Una Corte en Valparaíso no puede nacer ni en manera alguna es innecesaria ni inconveniente. La primera necesidad y la primera conveniencia de un país regularmente organizado es que la consecuencia de la justicia sea rápida y barata para los que la solicitan, y que sus cargas sean equitativas para los que la administran.

En Chile la sanción de la justicia no es rápida y barata para los ciudadanos, ni las raras que su administración impone están equitativamente repartidas entre los jueces.

Lamentando esta situación verdaderamente lamentable, el Presidente de la República decía en su Mensaje del 1º de junio del año pasado estas palabras que recomendamos a la serena meditación del señor Riesco, por si ellas consiguen apaciguar un poco su oposición brava:

“La población y el comercio, la industria y el espíritu de asociación, todas aquellas causas que acrecientan la riqueza, pero también el interés y la contradicción entre los hombres, han demostrado hasta la evidencia que la demarcación jurisdiccional de las Cortes de justicia es en extremo defectuosa, y que éstas son todavía deficiencias.”

Basta la enunciación de los hechos para adquirir cabal conocimiento de las razones que justifican la reforma.

“El 31 de diciembre de 1896 había penitentes en cada una de las Cortes el siguiente número de causas:

Corte Suprema..... 1,500
Corte de Apelaciones de Santiago 820

Corte de Concepción..... 723
Corte de la Serena..... 144

Corte de Iquique..... 63

“Estas diferencias en el trabajo ordinario de las Cortes ofenden la equidad y lastiman las personas o los intereses sometidos al fallo de la autoridad judicial. Los juicios civiles se prolongan a veces con escaso, y con frecuencia los delincuentes resultan condonados a pena menor que la sufrida durante la tránsfica de la causa.”

“La demarcación jurisdiccional viene produce estas inconveniencias verdaderamente insoportables. Ellas se imponen por la población, y necesariamente por el número de jueces, que guarda relación con

Habitantes.

A las dos salas de la Corte de Apelaciones de Santiago corresponden..... 1,555,749
La Corte de Concepción..... 1,020,749

La Corte de la Serena..... 292,890

La Corte de Iquique..... 95,690

“Tomando al acaso el dia 15 de abril ultimo, para investigar el número de causas que había en estado de tabla resultó:

Que la Corte Suprema..... 1,515

La Corte de Concepción..... 433

Las dos salas de la Corte de Santiago..... 225

La Corte de la Serena..... 37

La Corte de Iquique..... 29

“Aun existen otras designaciones, no menos inaceptables. Mientras la Corte de Concepción comprende en su jurisdicción actual veinticinco juzgados de letras, y la de Santiago con sus dos Salas veintiocho, y la Corte de la Serena hasta, y solo cinco en la de Iquique.”

Suponemos que el señor Riesco no dudará de la exactitud de esos datos suministrados por el Presidente de la República al Congreso.

Suponemos también que el señor Riesco, al caer en la cuenta, en vista de los datos de que en una de las Cortes habían pendientes 1,500 causas, y en otra 63; de que a ésta corresponde una jurisdicción de 1,150,000 habitantes, y a aquella una de 55,000; de que en una había estado de tabla 1,515 causas, y en la otra 22; de que a una corresponden veinticinco juzgados y a otra cinco;—al ver esto, decimos, el señor Riesco negará que las tareas judiciales estén repartidas entre las Cortes con una designidad asombrosamente enorme.

Suponemos, en fin, que el señor Riesco, una vez convencido por los números de esta deplorable distribución judicial, no negará la conveniencia ni la necesidad de hacer, por una parte, mas expedita la administración de justicia, de manera que no pueda presentarse el monstruoso caso de que una Corte tenga en sus estantes mil quinientos causas atrasadas, con grave perjuicio de los administrados; y por otra parte, de repartir mas equitativamente entre los jueces las tareas de su puesto.

Una vez establecidos estos antecedentes que son incontestables como otros tantos axiomas, solo nos resta manifestar al señor Riesco,—cosa que llega a parecer escasada,—que la creación de una Corte en Valparaíso satisfaría la doble conveniencia y la doble necesidad de hacer que la acción de la justicia fuese mas rápida y mas barata para el que la necesita, y que las cargas fuesen mas proporcionales para los jueces.

Pero antes de examinar este punto, debemos que el señor Riesco que me lo

tando un rato sobre las palabras y las cifras del Mensaje del Presidente de la República, que mas arriba hemos reproducido.

TELEGRAMAS.

AJENCIA HAVAS.

(Servicio especial para *La Unión*.)

PARS, 2nd.—The Chamber assembled to appraise a commission from their master to estimate the General Budgets of National Receipts and Expenditure for the coming fiscal year. The majority of the commission is against the Government.

VIENNA, 2nd.—The negotiations pending between Austria and Russia for a solution of the Bulgarian question are very advanced, and everything leads to the belief that they will lead to a favorable termination. The negotiations of military preparations and movements, according to the declarations of Minister of Bismarck, do not accompany the emperor.

MONTevideo, 2nd.—With general regret Dr. Reus, Managing Director of the National Bank of Uruguay, has resigned his important post on account of certain differences of opinion with the Board of Directors of the above-named establishment.

(TRADUCCION.)

PARIS, julio 2.—La cámara se reunió para nombrar la comisión de su senado encargada de examinar el presupuesto general de ingresos y gastos para la nación para el año que viene. La mayoría de la comisión es adversa al gobierno.

VIENNA, 2.—Las negociaciones pendientes entre Austria y Rusia, para el arreglo de la cuestión de Bulgaria, se hallan muy adelantadas y todo hace esperar que lleven un término favorable.

MONTevideo, 2.—Con sentimiento jenaro, el doctor Reus, director jerárquico del Banco Nacional del Uruguay, ha hecho renuncia de su importante cargo a causa de ciertas divergencias con el consejo de dirección de dicha institución.

CABLE SUB-MARINO.

LONDRES 1st.—The property destroyed in the British fires at Sunderland and Umeå in Sweden is valued at £ 5,000,000 kroner. Two thousand persons are homeless.

BERLIN, 1st.—The King is visiting the districts, and is engaged in relieving the wants of the sufferers. The houses, forests and standing crops of the farms in other districts have also been burned.

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