

our people should feel that all power in the State is, in the result, derived from them, that the men who make the laws and administer public affairs are their delegates, and that if the administration is bad, the individual citizen has nobody but himself to blame therefor. If our laws are unjust or inadequate the individual member of the community should reproach himself for inattention to political and civic duties.

The laws of the Province being the expression not of any external command forced upon a subservient and unwilling population by a superior power, but being the rules voluntarily established by ourselves, subject to change as and when we decide (of course within constitutional limits) it should be a matter of duty and of interest that they are just and fair.

This being the case with respect to the general public, let me say that few subjects can have greater interest for a society of professional men devoted to the study of jurisprudence than the desirability of a revision of our Civil Code at the present time.

It will be admitted that the laws of a people should be adjusted and adapted to the manners and customs of the times, applicable to the actual circumstances and conditions, and there should be a responsive relation between its daily life and conduct and the laws under which it dwells, and by which it is ruled.

At this period of the world's history it is almost trite to say that conditions of life alter so rapidly, manners and customs are so quickly revolutionized, new inventions, novel methods of trade and transportation, new problems of finance and commerce spring into being with such suddenness, that it is not surprising that laws made a hundred years ago or even fifty years ago now seem antiquated and inadequate.

Since the Code Napoleon was promulgated in 1804, countless problems due to the invention of steam and electricity with their marvellous manifestations have originated, and it is not too much to say that in many other respects the habits and customs of the people of the twentieth century differ almost entirely from those prevailing when the Code was inaugurated. Then there has been inevitably developed on this Western Continent a civilization greatly different to that prevailing in Europe, and with our essentially modern and democratic ideas, the Province of