

Valparaiso numbers thirty thousand inhabitants, and is one of the most flourishing seaports in the world. Its population has quintupled within the last twenty years, and it is rapidly advancing in every improvement, growing out of an increasing foreign commerce, and the enterprise of its inhabitants, fostered and encouraged as they are by government.

The mining districts are to the north, and the grain country to the south. Extensive flour-mills are now at work in Concepcion and its neighbourhood: the machinery is brought from the United States.

The recognised internal national debt is about \$2,000,000, of which sum \$800,000 is consolidated, bearing an annual interest of from two to six per cent. The government was about to consolidate the remainder, when their attention was called to other expenses abroad. The foreign debt is a loan from England, taken in 1822, of £1,000,000, with the interest now due, will not fall far short of \$8,000,000.

There is very little variation in the climate. During what is called the winter, when the rains prevail, between the 1st of May and the 1st of September, the thermometer occasionally falls for a few hours to 52°, but the mean of it throughout the year, at mid-day, would be 65°. During the dry season, from September to May, the thermometer at times reaches 78° to 80°. In the evening and morning, it is at 60°.

Fruits are abundant in their season: apples, pears, apricots, nectarines, plums, peaches, cherries, &c.; figs, grapes, strawberries, oranges, limes, and every variety of vegetable.

The present administration is composed of

General Joaquim Prieto, President: term of office five years; eligible for a second, but not a third successive term.

Don Joaquim Torconal, Minister of Foreign Relations, and Acting Minister of the Hacienda, or Treasury.

Don Ramen Cavareda, Minister of War and Marine.

Don Mariano Egaño, Minister of the Interior and Justice.

#### EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

The President of the Supreme Court of Justice,

The President of the High Court of Appeals,

The Reverend Bishop of Santiago, and Apostolic Vicar,

A General of Division,

The Minister of the Estanco, or Government Monopolies,

Two Ex-Ministers,

Two Judges, and

A Secretary of the Council.