

De Maasbode was the first to publish part of the text of *Rerum Novarum* in Dutch, on 22 May;¹² *De Tijd* published a translation of the entire text on 23 May, which was prepared and then distributed at low cost by the publisher Van Langenhuisen.¹³ The Catholics made sure the text was well publicized: Schaepman himself addressed the Roman Catholic People's League in Vlissingen on 1 July, explaining the contents in rapturous tones, and then published his speech in pamphlet form shortly afterwards.¹⁴ The Amsterdam section of this League, the *Rooms-Katholieke Volksbond*, also organized a meeting of the representatives of various Catholic associations to discuss the implications of *Rerum Novarum*; it ended up being more of a celebration and thanksgiving rather than a critical assessment.¹⁵ *De Tijd* published a translation of an exposition which had appeared in *The Tablet*,¹⁶ and generally the Catholic press buzzed with the pope's 'most recent encyclical' during the early summer of 1891. As had been predicted, other papers took an interest too, and even published summaries of the content, as well as their own comments.¹⁷

The great majority of commentators, including non-Catholics, were impressed with the seriousness with which the Pope had treated this highly important subject, and showed respect for at least the majority of the sentiments expressed. The *Nieuwe Rotterdamsche Courant* and the *Oprechte Haarlemsche Courant* both remarked how important the piece was, and how much interest there would be in the ensuing months.¹⁸ Abraham Kuiper's orthodox Calvinist *De Standaard* printed a lengthy summary of the contents, and in expressing its opinion was very positive indeed.¹⁹ The Socialists were initially enthusiastic,²⁰ and indeed

12. The rest followed in small instalments on 23, 24, 26, 27, 28 and 31 May, and 2 and 3 June.

13. See *De Tijd*, 23 May and 10 June 1891.

14. H.J.A.M. Schaepman, '*Rerum Novarum*': *rede over de jongste encycliek van Z.H. Paus Leo XIII*, Utrecht 1891. The exposition is highly enthusiastic, rather superficial, and interesting in its emphasis on the papal approval for all kinds of workers' organizations, especially those of the trade-union type (see 22).

15. See reports in *De Tijd*, 13 July 1891.

16. *De Tijd*, 15 June 1891. The report had first appeared in *De Nieuwe IJsselbode*, and emphasized the criticism which appeared in *Rerum Novarum* of the encroaching role of the modern state.

17. E.g. *Oprechte Haarlemsche Courant*, 25 May 1891. *De Amsterdammer* published four long articles containing a detailed paraphrase of the encyclical in the issues of 29 and 30 May and 2 and 3 June 1891.

18. *Oprechte Haarlemsche Courant*, 23 May 1891; and *Nieuwe Rotterdamsche Courant*, 21 and 27 May 1891.

19. *De Standaard*, 27 and 28 May 1891.

20. E.g. *Recht voor Allen*, 26 May 1891.