

thousands into the Socialist fold.⁴⁰ The Catholics were quick to point out the perversity of the comparison in the Socialist press,⁴¹ but there were many ways in which the left could claim that *Rerum Novarum* followed their own line of reasoning. Van Houten used it in support of his views against strikes,⁴² and a columnist calling himself Jan Holland in *De Tijd* managed to find support in Leo's words for his own version of Bellamy Socialism.⁴³ The most ingenious use of part of the encyclical was devised by the *Algemeen Handelsblad*, which utilized it to condemn the continuation of the infamous Culture System in the Dutch East Indies, which large sections of the liberals wanted to see completely abandoned as a government monopoly: the Pope, so ran the argument, condemned exploitation of the masses, Javanese in this case, and therefore the Catholics should withdraw their support in the approaching Dutch elections from those Catholic politicians who were in favour of maintaining the old exploitative system! Significantly, Schaepman and Des Amorie van der Hoeven were specifically exempted from blame.⁴⁴

One of the aims of the encyclical was to bring Catholics together, rather than to plump for any one particular policy or approach, and as a result virtually all Catholic groups used it as an authority for at least part of their actions.⁴⁵ For example, Alphonse Ariëns immediately saw *Rerum Novarum* as a legitimization of his struggle for Catholic trade unions,⁴⁶ while those who criticized his actions used exactly the same authority for their censure.⁴⁷ The reactionary *De Maasbode* of course made copious use of the parts of *Rerum Novarum* which condemned Socialism (even if the rest of the encyclical was often unpalatable),⁴⁸ and *De Tijd* did the same, warning those Catholics who were sympathetic to parts of the 'siren-song' of Socialist and Radical programmes that all aspects of those doctrines had been 'most definitely and emphatically opposed, countered and condemned by His Holiness in his Encyclical.'⁴⁹ The same paper also used

40. *Recht voor Allen*, 14 July 1891.

41. *Het Centrum*, 1 and 3 July 1891.

42. S. van Houten, 'Paus Leo XIII', 3.

43. *De Tijd*, 30 May and 1 June 1891.

44. *Algemeen Handelsblad*, 4 June 1891.

45. Perry, *Roomsche kinine*, 35.

46. See Roes, *Bronnen*, 329-331 and 505-508.

47. E.g. an article in *De Gelderlander* of 8 May 1895, quoted in Roes, *Bronnen*, 334-337; see also 364.

48. In an article on 'Het Eigendomsrecht', in *De Maasbode*, 21 August 1891.

49. *De Tijd*, 15 August 1891.