

had achieved the acceptance of a common political programme knitting together all Catholic members of the Second Chamber in Parliament: this unprecedented unity amongst political Catholicism in the Netherlands was based in the tenets of *Rerum Novarum*, and indeed the party programme itself, penned by Schaepman, directly followed the encyclical in its passages on social issues. The programme was ratified the next year by all the local Roman Catholic electoral associations throughout the country.⁶⁹ The impact of *Rerum Novarum* in the Netherlands was profound indeed, not least in assisting such a transformation in the space of only five years.

69. E.H. Kossmann, *The Low Countries 1780-1940*, Oxford 1978, 351; and Righart, *De katholieke zuil*, 247-248.