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Profit-Sharing and Labour Co-Partnership

Proposal of the Italian Catholic Party

The Bill to establish workers' control in industry, which was introduced in the Italian Chamber on 9 February, was accompanied by the texts of the proposals made by the General Confederation of Labour, the General Confederation of Industry, and the Italian Confederation of Workers (the central trade union organisation of the Catholic Party). The International Labour Office published in a previous study ⁽¹⁾ the texts of the Government Bill and of the proposals of the General Confederation of Labour and of the employers. We now publish the text of the Catholic proposal, preceded by a short account of its origin.

When the Italian Premier, Mr. Giolitti, instituted, in September 1920, a Joint Commission entrusted with the drafting of a Bill to introduce workers' control in industry, the Catholic Party (*Partito popolare italiano*), finding itself excluded from this Commission, manifested the greatest dissatisfaction both in the Chamber and elsewhere. The party leaders went so far as to threaten to withdraw the Catholic ministers from the Government, which would have entailed the fall of the Cabinet. The political secretary of the party, Dom Sturzo, and the Deputy, Mr. Gronchi, general secretary of the central Catholic trade union organisation (*Confederazione italiana dei lavoratori*), had a long interview with the Premier on 24 September. They called Mr. Giolitti's attention to the serious impression produced by the recent Decree, both in party circles and in the Catholic trade union organisations. They stated that in their opinion a legislative solution of the question of workers' control could only have been found by giving a very wide

(1) *Studies and Reports*, Series B, No. 7.