

### ITALIAN ELECTIONS

Even the very sick record their votes in the Italian elections. So great are the issues involved that ninety per cent of the electorate goes to the ballot box. Within an hour of sunrise, long queues are gathered at the polling stations. Even the excuse to stay away is brought along.

The police have their hands full, too, regulating the flow of voters through the booths.

For a brief moment the humblest Italian holds the centre of the world's stage as he makes his choice. Pietro Nenni (to whom forty British Members of Parliament addressed a telegram of goodwill) is very optimistic. He has allied his left-wing Socialists with the forces of the Communist Party. With this aid, Palmire Togliatti, Communist leader, anticipates a combined majority over the Government parties.

Giuseppe Saragat, leader of the Labour party (to whom some of our M.Ps believed their message was addressed) unites his followers with the militant Father Lombardi. Their combined effort goes to support the Democratic bloc.

President of the Republic Di Nicola records his vote. Recognised as a good man imbued with a sincere desire to serve his countrymen he is greeted affectionately by the crowds.

But the warmest demonstration goes to Premier De Gasperi as the official returns make known the success of his Christian Democratic Party. With a Coalition majority assured against the Communists, Italy has cast her vote for Freedom.