

The first 'closed' meeting was held in the great hall of the Terminus Hotel. There was a crowded attendance. Prince Aloysius Lowenstein was enthusiastically chosen to preside over the Congress, with Herr Hoen, a member of the Prussian Landtag, and Herr Trunk, of Karlsruhe, to assist him as vice-presidents.

The Holy Father's letter was read and was received with great applause.

Prince Lowenstein, in an address, ridiculed the fears of frictions that had been expressed. It had been deemed advisable that the French language should be employed as well as the German, for many of the people of the town and neighborhood understood it better, but the gathering was none the less a Congress of the Catholics of Germany. They regarded the province as an inseparable part of the German Fatherland, and its inhabitants who were present as true members of the general German Catholic Congress.

Messages of Homage.

The following telegram was sent to the Holy Father:—

To his Holiness Pope Pius X., Rome.

The Catholics of Germany, assembled in General Congress at Metz, tender to you, Holy Father, the respectful expression of their ready obedience and unchangeable fidelity and love. During your illness they were filled with anxiety, and they return thanks to God for having preserved to the flock the true protector of pure doctrine, the fearless protagonist in the fight for the liberty of the Church. Bearing in mind the glorious deed of Constantine which gave freedom for development to the Church of Christ, and thereby provided in the highest degree for the welfare of men, the Catholics of Germany give utterance to the earnest wish that the fetters which are now imposed on the Church in so many ways may soon be removed, and they beg for the Vicar of Christ on earth full freedom in the exercise of his holy office, so fruitful in blessings. They respectfully ask for the Apostolic Blessing on their discussions.

To the Kaiser the following telegram was despatched:—

Many thousand Catholic men assembled at Metz for the sixtieth General Congress of the Catholics of Germany offer your Majesty their homage and a pledge of their inviolable fidelity and attachment to the Emperor and the Empire. They thankfully rejoice in the peace which your Majesty, for twenty-six years, has, with strong and well-directed hand, preserved for the German Empire. They pray God, the King of Kings, to grant your Majesty many more years of a happy and blissful reign to the benefit of the Fatherland.

At five o'clock on Sunday evening there was a meeting for working men in the Congress Hall. It was large and inspiring. Stirring speeches were delivered by Professor Kintzinger, president of the local committee, Count Droste-Vischering, Prince Lowenstein, and Bishop Benzler, of Metz. Naturally the Bishop was very proud of the display made by the workers in the procession, and he gave enthusiastic expression to his joy. A paper on 'The Catholic Policy' ('Weltans-

chauung') and the Remedy for Social Evils,' was read by Father Tilly, of Metz, who dwelt on the importance of close adhesion to Catholic principles.

Another meeting was held the same evening for the purpose of tendering a formal welcome to the delegates, especially those from a distance. The speeches were most cordial. Amongst those who returned thanks were Count Galen, of Munster; M. Verhulft, of Brussels; and the Very Rev. Father Volling, of South Shantung.

The reply to the telegram sent to the Kaiser was read at this meeting. His Majesty said he was grateful for their homage. His message was heartily cheered.

The question of vigorously defending the denominational principle in education was fully dealt with at a meeting on Monday morning, over which Dr. Marx, of Dusseldorf, presided. Dr. Cuny (Montigny) read a paper entitled 'The Denominational School,' and Bishop Benzler delivered a speech in which he strongly impressed on his hearers the necessity of perfecting the Catholic school organisation.

Dr. Schmitt, of Mainz, at the second 'closed' meeting, proposed a resolution demanding full and practical freedom for the Holy Father. The resolution also pledged the German Catholics to even more generous support of the Peter Pence collections. The motion was adopted with acclamation.

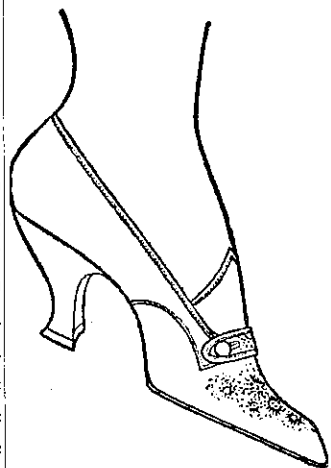
The law against the Jesuits engaged attention on Monday at the first public meeting, which was very largely attended. When Prince Lowenstein, who presided, declared with emphasis that the Catholic people demanded that the law must be repealed there was a storm of applause. The meeting vigorously endorsed the call for the repeal of the law, and the words of the different speakers with reference to the Jesuits and their good works were very warmly applauded.

Speeches by Bishop Benzler and Bishop Faulhaber, of Speyer, who touched on various Catholic questions, were most sympathetically received.

The Holy Father's reply to the telegram despatched to him was received and read during the meeting. His Holiness, through Cardinal Merry del Val, thanked the Congress from his heart for the homage tendered to him, and again sent his Apostolic Blessing to the delegates.

The 'People's Association.'

The annual meeting of the Volkevcrein, or 'People's Association,' was held in the Congress Hall on Tuesday morning. The gathering was very large, and evidence that the deepest interest is taken in this fine organisation which has done so much to assert and protect Catholic rights was abundant. Herr Karl Trimborn, of Cologne, presided, in the absence through illness of Herr Brandts. The report, which was read by Dr. Brauns, showed that during the past year there had been an increase of 47,240 members. In June last the total number of members was 776,090. The association is strongest in the dioceses of Munster, Paderborn, and Cologne. This year for the first time it enrolled women. The female members now number 26,786.



Ladies' Spring Shoes.

Albany, strap, and tie shoes with pump and light welted soles are the styles of footwear a woman delights to wear. There's no foot covering that looks so handsome or affords her so much comfort as her Spring and Summer Shoes. All styles of our low cut shoes and ties are correctly formed and they work in harmony with the foot. There's no cramping of the toes, chafing at the heel, or gaping at the sides. Come and see the New Shipment just arrived.

GOUGH & SON 274 High Street, Christchurch.

