Response to Address of Welcome.

By John Luchsinger, President.

Mr. Conley and Citizens of Darlington:

For myself and for the Southern Wisconsin Cheese-makers' Association I thank you most sincerely for your kind and gracious words of welcome. Such a welcome makes one feel at home, convinces us that we are among friends.

Neighbors and friends our interests are the same. Whatever may be of advantage and profit in this our annual gathering we gladly share with you, and hope that with the kind help of your own dairy and cheese men our sessions will be helpful to the great and growing cheese industry of Southern Wisconsin. I am well advised when I say growing, for I know your county, its soil, its grasses and its general fitness for the dairy business. I predict that in the not far away future your city will be the center of cheese production as truly as it is now the center of the splendid limestone hill country clad with rich everlasting blue grass and watered by springs and brooks in generous abundance, all so indispensable to good milk production. It is true that our great Swiss cheese industry originated in Green county, brought across the ocean 60 years ago by a cluster of poor Swiss immigrants who tramped their weary way on foot across your prairies from Galena to the land in Green county selected for them to settle on, but the greatest milk production has reached or nearly reached its limit there. Swiss cheese making is not successful in the low lying though rich meadow lands to the east of us, it attains its best on the great limestone hills and uplands that stretch from Sugar River westward in great waves of hill and valley to the Mississippi. South-western Wisconsin is, and always will be, the best milk producing section of the middle west, best in quality, and most abundant in production.

To develop and make the most of this choice gift of na-
ture it requires only the right kind of people. You have them, they are willing and eager to learn what must be learned to become successful milk producers. This association has come here to meet with them to talk of the best methods to pursue in all the many details of cheese production, to instruct and be instructed, to talk of the failures as well as the successes of the past and apply the lessons. My observation has been that in the matter of building cheese factories. Lafayette county people are no way narrow or niggardly, as a rule they will freely provide good, substantial, sanitary buildings and the best known equipments and this is especially the rule where new factories are being built. They are eager to do all in their power when they are informed of what is required, so that no blame may be thrown on them in case of failure.

I trust that every one attending our meetings will feel free to take an active part, especially in the discussions, for the very best thoughts are most often awakened and brought out in a free open talk. Again thanking you for your kind invitation and generous welcome we will now proceed to the business of the meeting.