ADDRESS OF WELCOME.'

BY JOHN LUCHSINGER.

To the dairymen, cheesemakers and dealers, of Wisconsin.

Gentlemen:—

The pleasant duty has been assigned to me to welcome you to this the Twelfth annual convention of your association.

From all indications this convention promises to surpass all former ones in attendance, interest, and usefulness.

We shall have with us our best practical dairymen and cheesers, because they are those, who are eager to learn all that is best of their business, and who will in turn freely share with you the knowledge that has made them more successful than the average.

There will be here those who have training in the scientific, experimental as well as practical knowledge of your business, their knowledge is yours for the asking.

There will also be present those thru whom your product is gathered and brought to the markets, whose knowledge of the trade and its needs are of great importance. The farmer, cheeser, dealer and supply man will all come because each expects to learn from the other, and be benefitted by meeting with and becoming known to each other, for each in his line, has alive interest in the success of your business as a whole, a business that has grown so great as to overshadow every other branch of farming in this state, and all other business depends in a great measure upon the welfare of our dairy industry,

For this reason the membership of this association

is composed of good men from every calling and profession, all willing to assist in promoting its usefulness.

Here in Green county is the greatest center of this country for the production and sale of these called fancy, or foreign, kinds of cheese.

Aside from the supreme law of supply and demand, this center fixes the standard of quality and makes the prices for the American make of these kinds of cheese, much as Elgin does for butter.

This condition has not come by mere chance, climate, soil, grasses, and most important, the people, are especially well adapted for highest grade dairy farming. The quality of milk produced from the blue grass pastures of our limestone highlands is of superior quality be it for butter, cheese or condensed milk, nowhere in America is there any better. In my recent travels in the greatest dairy country of Europe, I became more than ever convinced that the locating of the hills of New Glarus in 1845 of the Swiss colony, was no lucky chance or happy accident. In going from Geneva to Neufchatel in Switzerland, I could not help notice the similarity of the lower mountains and hills and of the soil with the long ranges of limestone hills of our Wisconsin highlands, even the exposed rock in their highway and railway cuts was the identical soft yellow magnesian limestone of our own hills, which there as here supplies substance and fertility to the pasture grasses. Had there been mountains in Wisconsin our pioneers would no doubt have selected them for their colony of Swiss lacking mountains, they have selected hills, and emigrants from other lands were quite willing they might have them.

Such location and settlers, were the humble beginning of the great industry your association now represents, an industry begun in the log kitchen of the pioneer, then came the humble modest factories, all at first confined to one or two townships of Swiss

settlers, until success was assured, now spread over the greater part of the country of the five southwest counties of Wisconsin. Farmers of every nation see profit in dairying, cheesefactories hundreds of them, many built in best substantial manner, dot the country at short intervals. Two milk condensaries the first built, and the largest, in this state are in this county. The production and sale of cheese alone in this district exceeds three million dollars annually not mentioning butter and condensed milk.

The future of your business is as permanent as the limestone hills on which it is flourishing, for in that stone is stored and preserved fertility in the form of fossil remains of countless ages of early forms of animal life. If those engaged in dairying in future will but maintain the highest reputation for honest, pure, and excellent quality of dairy products they now enjoy in the markets, they will surely reap their reward of good name and wealth.

It needs no argument that the dairy farmer is the best farmer and that his farm is best kept and best looking farm. The proofs are before you. Nowhere are farms more fertile and productive than in the dairy countries. No farms have better dwellings, barns, fences, and soil, for your dairy farmer is really progressive in all that concerns his business, and last but most important, the people young and old are intelligent law abiding useful citizens, for the dairy farm trains people to steady continuous und useful work, and it follows, that there is no time for practice in idleness and vice. When the evening of life comes as it must come to all, there is a sufficiency saved to supply the wants and often the luxuries so grateful to the aged.

This convention as in other years, will bring together those who are alive to their best interest, in all lines of dairying, they will meet to compare results with each other, to that end a free and full exchange of thought and talk is much desired, for in

this way information of much greater rang and value can be brought out than by any elaborate speech no matter how well written or spoken. Let every one here feel and act as if he was at home among friends, gathered together for the welfare and improvement of the industry you are all closely interested in, so that when this meeting closes each may feel that he has been helped, and benefitted.

With such desire I most sincerely welcome you in the name of the association, to the exercises discussion, and entertainments, of this convention.