H. O. Strozinsky: I didn’t hear our worthy secretary mention that we were supposed to come to order but I presume we all understand that. The first thing on the program is the address of welcome and I am indeed pleased to announce to you this evening that the address will be given by the Hon. John E. Barron.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME

John E. Barron, Mayor, Eau Claire, Wis.

Mr. President, Officers and Members of the Wisconsin Butter Makers’ Association; Fellow Citizens and Friends:

Sometimes as is the case we are called upon to bestow certain honors upon the individual and I notice your president pro tem is occupying the stage alone, but be that as it may, I think in this address of welcome that I can talk to you perhaps in that spirit that should predominate better, as they say, at close range.

It is a privilege to again be with you. I understand that three years ago you visited the city of Eau Claire and it has not come to my mind that there are any protests in regard to the treatment that you received but it is always in order and if there are any such protests on the part of the membership I wish that you would express yourselves plainly to me on that subject.

I know full well, friends, that you have not gathered here especially out of courtesy to the mayor but that you are assembled to enter into deliberations which are evidenced in the fact that in the next two or three days that are consumed in the program, subjects will well be taken up from which you will undoubtedly profit greatly thereby. You will have many distinguished guests from far away states and not least among these notable guests is our own Dean Russell of Madison, whom I have had the pleasure of meeting.

The story is told of a Texas Congressman and I have applied that to my own case, in a measure, where, after a session of Congress he was returning homeward with the idea perhaps that he had been rather prominent at Washington, found a large
crowd gathered at the station and so his vanity was aroused by the thought that here his fellow citizens had gathered to do him honor and so he was prepared when he stepped off on the platform to address his seeming audience and so he said, "Fellow citizens, I thank you for this welcome home," and then a loud voice in the rear was heard saying, "Welcome home, thunder, didn't you know that Henry Bacon had committed suicide in the station?" So on this occasion I know that you are not gathered here to hear an address by the mayor, an address of welcome, but you are here with that steadfast purpose to derive something beneficial from the program that you have formulated.

Now we are all somewhat interested in this program and I note that the dairy situation is going to be discussed this evening by Dean Russell and we are interested to this extent, this phase of the question, this one particular phase, we wish to know when the price of butter is going to drop still lower. Now if I can carry back to my people the assurance that butter is again going to be a common article of food upon our tables I do not know of any news that would be received with greater acclaim than that. But, seriously speaking, my friends, Wisconsin has every reason to feel proud of its agricultural development. A progressive spirit has spread to every branch of industry throughout this great domain of ours and the Wisconsin Butter Makers' Association has done much to promote the building up of those herds of well bred stock that will mean in the years to come that Wisconsin will still retain the place it now holds among the states of the union in that regard. We only need look back a few years to determine to our own satisfaction what has been accomplished and I make the assertion that the State of Wisconsin has still greater possibilities.

Unfortunately the hotel situation here may perhaps receive some discussion. I can give the assurance that the project is at least upon paper and that perhaps when you return to the City of Eau Claire again that we will have a hostelry that will contain some two or three hundred rooms, and possibly four hundred for we know not as the plans are not very definite in that regard, but the ground has been purchased and there is every prospect in regard to a satisfactory solution of the hotel question. I mention the hotel question because if any of you are not supplied with quarters I have made reservations at the jail. I always do that when the Wisconsin Butter Makers' come to Eau Claire, whether you have hotel accommodations or not,
and if the officers of the organization or association think possibly that these might not be used then I would like to have them cancelled so that we can hold them for other strangers that might drop into the city during the interim.

My friends, I have nothing further to say except this, that the citizens of Eau Claire believe that the Wisconsin Butter Makers' Association and the Northwestern Wisconsin Butter Makers' Association are two of the most substantial conventions that come to our city and we entertain many of them during the year.

Again I thank you for this opportunity of addressing this convention.

MR. STROZINSKY: I want to assure you that whenever we come to Eau Claire we are always granted a very hearty welcome. It appears as though the Honorable Mayor feels somewhat of a brotherly love for us as he just mentioned that some of us might find lodging in the jail, which we hope will not occur, but I assure you as a member of the Northwestern Butter Makers' association we have always felt at home in Eau Claire, always came here with the impression that Eau Claire was going to show us a good time and most of us have had it all right, not only in discussing the different principles of the meeting, different principles of the dairy line, but a good time, in general, and that is why I say that I believe the mayor has that sort of a feeling that he likes to see us come; he knows we always have a good time and why shouldn't we come, and therefore I say that we should grant the Honorable Mayor this evening a hearty welcome to be here this evening with us, therefore I move as a body that we rise to extend our appreciation to the mayor.

JOHN E. BARRON: I am not rising to acknowledge the courtesy although I should but it was with the thought that perhaps I should not take up any more time but there is one matter that was forgotten. The Elks Lodge No. 402, occupying quarters in a building one block from here, have invited the membership of this association to visit them at any time, therefore do not heed the sign after you reach the top of the stairs that only club members are allowed because if you wear the badge they will know that you are members of this association. This evening they have an initiation and lunch, I understand, and perhaps there might be some members of the order that will be interested in calling there later on, but any time during
your visit yourselves and ladies are invited to partake of the hospitality of the Elks and I was especially requested by the Exalted Ruler to mention this to the Association.

Mr. Benkendorf: Ladies and gentlemen it gives me great pleasure to have Mr. Strozinski respond to the address of welcome of the mayor.

RESPONSE

Mr. Strozinski: I am indeed very pleased to say a few words to you this evening and assure you that as I note the program, we have a very interesting one before us this evening; I am sure it is a program that is uppermost in our minds. I

H. O. STROZINSKY
Menomonie, Wis.

also wish to state that when the secretary asked me to appear on the program here I was somewhat discouraged and felt as though he was kind of imposing on me to get me into this work every time and I wrote and asked him to let somebody else have a chance. I felt others have as good a voice as I have and were just as good looking, and a whole lot better and I felt that he