

RESPONSE TO ADDRESS OF WELCOME.

By Hon. R. D. TORREY, Milwaukee.

Mr. Mayor:—The pleasant duty devolves upon me of accepting the welcome just given by you to the members of this convention as the chief executive of this beautiful, thriving city, and thank you for the sincerity with which you have extended its hospitalities to the members and friends of the Wisconsin Dairymen's Association on this occasion. The value of the courtesies and welcomes of life depends mainly on the sincerity with which they are extended. Often we find ourselves welcomed by the conventionalities and forms of the world to a cold and cheerless kind of reality, so that we come almost unconsciously to dread to be welcomed, preferring to take our chance in the good old-fashioned way of making ourselves at home. But when, as now, there comes to us courtesy in so marked a degree, and welcome so sincerely extended, it is with more than ordinary pleasure we say that we thank you for your words of greeting and encouragement. The society under whose auspices this convention is held, has for its membership many of the best men of the state, representative men of that better class of farmers who are not content with the achievements and improvements of our yesterday, but who are ever watchful for and desirous to attain to the highest degree of excellence in the dairy branch of farm husbandry. These men represent a class whose product goes very far towards making up the wealth of the nation. They represent a class who by their patient effort, guided by intelligent application, have developed Wisconsin as one of the best dairy states in the Union, and made the song of the dairymaid the popular one of the land, and in doing so have become a terror to manufacturers and dealers in oleomargarine, butterine, and other vile compounds of evil-doers. Through the energy of these men the quality of the product of the Wisconsin dairy has reached that point of excellence that eastern buyers not only want our butter and cheese at fair rates, but want it branded from Wisconsin, and take particular pains to let their trade know that it is from this state, and doubtless much more butter and cheese are sold in the eastern market by eastern men as Wisconsin make than is made in the state, thus succeeding under the well earned laurels of our own Badger State.

Through the energy and fresh impetus given to the dairy interests through the direct influence of this association, Wisconsin leads at the great international dairy fairs of the east and comes back with her exhibits covered with blue ribbons; and it is gratifying to know that amid the many discouragements of other branches of farming, this society has shown clearly that the "milky way" is the way of life, financially at least, to many of our citizens. Conventions of this character are calculated, planned and carried out for the benefit of all. They have for their object the improvement of all who attend them, as well as all who are engaged in this industry. They provoke rivalry and commendable competition in the race after the perfect. They bring out the better thoughts and better methods as aids in attaining such perfection. They are not exclusive, but are for *all*. This is so true that if the secretary of this society finds any one who is so indifferent to his own interests as to absent himself from them, he sends him a volume of the proceedings that he may be convinced of the error of his ways and join the great army of successful dairymen, and *one*, at least, of the thrifty dairymaids of the state. In these conventions Wisconsin leads again, for no other state devotes so much time or thought to such meetings; in fact, it may truthfully be said the Badgers inaugurated them.

The results are seen everywhere in improved stock and farms and more intelligent farming. In increased products and enhanced values, in a greater or less degree, as the thoughts and suggestions gained here are acted upon. Mr. Mayor, not being a member of this society (though of a kindred one), permit me to say you honor yourselves when you welcome these representative men of the great dairy interests of Wisconsin to your city to hold their annual convention; and I will close by saying for them and myself, I thank you for the hearty greeting to the Wisconsin Dairymen's Association, and hope you and many of your citizens will avail themselves of the opportunity and be present at all of its sessions.