ANNUAL CONVENTION.

_Held at Oshkosh, February, 1887._

TURNER HALL, FEBRUARY 16th, 1885.

Convention called to order by John Gould, of Aurora, Ohio, at 10:30 A. M.

Mr. Gould said: It is a very pleasant morning and good sleighing, and I hope to see this house filled with the farmers of this county. Yesterday a thousand farmers filled the rink where I attended, and though there are not so many here to-day, we shall hope that there will be more than that number to-morrow.

Mr. Hazen, you are chairman, you will set forth the objects of this convention.

Mr. Hazen —_Ladies and Gentlemen, and Brother Farmers:_

This is a meeting of the Northern Wisconsin Agricultural Society; what is called our annual convention, in connection with the farmer’s institute. Our institutes were instituted two years ago. A law was passed in respect to them, and last winter Mr. W. H. Morrison, of Madison, was appointed superintendent of these institutes. This year he is coming to co-operate with us in getting up a good convention for the farmers.

There is some question about the origin of the farmers’ convention and institute. I would state that I believe George Morrow, years ago, edited the Western Farmer at Madison. He should be credited more than any other man with the invention of farmers’ institutes. For several years our agricultural society has had annual conventions. Our conventions have been held in different sections in the northern part of the state, with one exception, for the last fifteen years, with good results. We always, if we have any decent weather, have a good attendance. I take a good deal of
interest in the work. Our farmers’ institutes this winter as well as last winter, where they are all held, are well attended. The number is usually limited to the capacity of the hall in which they are held, many more usually being in attendance than can get into the hall. Prof. Morrison is now at Weyauwega attending an institute, and will be here this evening. He has sent in two gentlemen, Mr. John Gould, of Ohio, and Mr. Faville, of Delavan, who have been helping him, and who will help us in our work.

There is a paper here by Judge Washburn, the first on the program, I believe, on butterine.

G. W. Washburn then read the following:

BUTTER AND BUTTERINE.

The introduction of imitation butter is one of the latest, and perhaps not the least of the varied accomplishments of the skill, ingenuity and greed of the present age. It came in disguise with the cloak of fraud wrapped about it, and sought to displace in part, if not in whole, one of the choicest products of the farm. It sought to deceive and impose upon the average householder — to force its way upon the tables of the rich and the poor, and has had such phenomenal success that the value of its annual production has run far up into the millions.

Shall we call this progress in the arts and sciences, or is it woeful evidence that we are living in an age of weakness, of degeneracy, of vice and constantly increasing crime? It may be that the conception of this idea grew out of what some may have supposed to be a necessity, that in some way should be supplied

Perhaps that may not be an erroneous view of the situation. When the consumption of imitation butter, under its true name and with a free knowledge of its real character, has attained enormous proportions, it would hardly seem to admit of doubt that butterine is believed to have merit to some extent, and that it is likely to hold a place in the markets of the world until it, in its turn, shall be displaced by