As I remarked before, we held our last annual convention in Menomonee and spent one hour of the time in visiting the Stout Manual Training School; and it was a revelation to all of us. We had heard more or less about that school, but we were not prepared to find, in what seemed to us a far-off section of the state, such a complete equipment and such splendid work being done by the lads—and lassies too, because it includes both sexes. The state of Wisconsin may well feel proud that it has a citizen with the public-sightedness and the public spirit to start such an institution within its boundaries. It reflects great credit indeed upon the state. It is a Mecca for pilgrims from all the other states, and for educators from foreign lands when they come here, the equipment is so complete, the building is so well adapted for its purpose. It is a monument to Senator Stout and the public spirit of his enterprise in that city and county. I forbear to detain you longer, except to move that the thanks of the association be tendered to Senator Stout and the Manual Training School which bears his name, for their very kind remembrance.

Motion seconded, put to the house and unanimously carried.

The Chairman: This gavel, which we are pleased to accept, represents excellence in its quality both in material and workmanship. It comes from an institution that stands for progress and education, and it is to be used to preside over an association that has for more than thirty years stood for progress in a great educational work, in the great dairy interest of Wisconsin; so may it symbolize to us the spirit of progress ever.

I take pleasure in introducing to you at this time Mayor Bishop, who will speak to us on behalf of the city of Fond du Lac.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME.

Mr. President, Members of the Wisconsin Dairymen’s Association: As representing the city of Fond du Lac, it affords me great pleasure to extend to you a hearty welcome to all the courtesies that Fond du Lac can possibly offer. It gives me great pleasure to welcome a body of men and women to our city of the intelligence of this, whose course from 1872 has
been marked with grand progress, one of the grandest and noblest works that pertain, not only to the agricultural interests of Wisconsin, but to every one of the products of those interests. We not only welcome you to the city, but we welcome you as well to the county of Fond du Lac. Its celebrated herds of dairy cattle are known practically the world over where efforts are made in improvement of the products of the cow. I call your attention to the well known and celebrated herd of Holsteins at Springvale owned by Mr. Gillette and son, the fine herd of Jerseys owned by Mr. Fred Scribner and also the Guernseys of Mr. Hill, just outside of the village of Rosendale, also to Mr. Bierne’s herd in the town of Oakfield. You have all heard of that herd where, but a short time ago, two of his cows furnished on a test nearly, or quite 1,800 pounds of butter in one year, or less than one year,—almost a ton of butter. You can remember very readily when it was considered a good deal for one herd to average 125 pounds to the cow. We thought that was all right.

When Mr. Hiram Smith, one of the pioneers in the dairy business of the northwest, stated to your convention that his herd averaged him 250 pounds to the cow, a great many listened to that statement with considerable doubt as to the accuracy of his scales or his tests. We have now reached a time when it is not considered an extreme limit when a man’s herd averages 400 pounds to the cow during the year, which is a gain of 275 pounds over what was considered a sufficient yield at the time this organization was inaugurated, thirty-one years ago. I believe I am not exaggerating when I say that there has been one hundred million pounds of butter made in the state during the last year, about one-third of that being dairy butter and two-thirds creamery butter. I think I am not exaggerating when I say that seventy million pounds of cheese have been made in this state during the last year.

Another thing may not be amiss for me to mention, and that is, that over a million dollars worth of cheese has been handled through this city during the last year by dealers here, and we do not claim that we have the best agricultural county in the state of Wisconsin, but I want to say to you that there are not
many rounds on the ladder above us. Our people are delighted to have you here for the benefits you will do the cheese and butter interests of our county. I might go farther and say, what you possibly may consider is out of order—you can tell by my rotundity, my appearance of vigorous health, that I have some reason to know something about these food products. I commenced in the dairy business, you know, some fifty-six years ago. All I got for it was my living, and I have got that ever since. I well remember when my younger brothers grew old enough to milk cows and I could go at something else, and I was not sorry, for I did not particularly enjoy milking after the first year.

I want to call your attention to this souvenir that the citizens of Fond du Lac have been delighted to present to you. It may possibly have been a query in your mind why we put upon it the head of a beef cow. Well, the reason for that is, that the dairy cows are all at home, busy, busy, busy, making butter and cheese, and the beef cow is the only cow that has time to attend a dairymen's convention. That is the reason you find the beef cow's head; it was not an oversight on the part of the committee that selected this badge.

I want to say something more in regard to the city of Fond du Lac. The city of Fond du Lac was at one time a very prosperous city, when it had the river bank here lined with sawmills; but those gradually went away, and then we had to hustle around for something new. There was a time of sleep, you know, but after sleep all vegetation wakes up in the spring. No tree can bear foliage the whole year around. Fond du Lac took that respite and then she woke up, and she has been moving right along ever since.

Fond du Lac has now a population in the neighborhood of 20,000, not including our lively suburb, North Fond du Lac, a village which is incorporated, with 2,000 inhabitants. I think you all know that Fond du Lac is one of the finest railroad centers in the state of Wisconsin. You can take the cars here practically for any place in the universe, and at almost any time of day or night. The government of the United States has decided to furnish us a custom house, the site has
been accepted and the title approved. The contractors are at work furnishing material already for a $40,000 library building, exclusive of the lot, to be located on an elegant plot of ground 160 feet square, and not over 150 feet from the center of the business portion of the city. We expect also to erect this summer a $30,000 Elks' Club House. We expect to open, a week from next Monday night, about a mile of as fine shale block pavement as can be found in the United States. We are moving right along, and whenever you see fit to come back to meet with us, we will see fit to have you come any time you can, and we will show you streets in better condition than they are to-day. Three years ago the country upon which North Fond du Lac now stands, was farm land entirely and to-day they have 2,000 inhabitants, the Wisconsin Central has the combined shops of Waukesha and Stevens Point located there. I cannot begin to tell you how many men they employ but not less than 275 in the shops alone. The North-Western, on the 6th of last August, broke ground for their extensive shops and division headquarters. They have one of the largest yards that they have outside of Chicago, and they have established a repair shop, and it is only a question of time until it shall become a mammoth repair shop.

Now, you cannot wonder that with all this energy, all this push, all these natural advantages, and all these peculiar circumstances that come to us, that we feel like crowing on our own dunghill.

We have a reception committee of which Mr. Galloway is chairman, and they will be very happy to extend the courtesies of the city. Thank you, gentlemen.