

Branford's Gala Day

Business Men's Carnival Turned Into a Genuine Old Home Day.

New Haveners who journeyed to Branford on Wednesday—and they were there by the scores and hundreds—have been regaling their friends with enthusiastic accounts of the carnival which was given in that town under the auspices of the Branford Business Men's association. This association was organized during the spring by a few of the leading merchants and now includes practically all the business men in the town of Branford, as well as many of

of white and red, topped off with a huge parasol simliarily trimmed. She drove a bay horse. Mrs. S. G. Linsley drove her gray in a purple and white carriage. Miss Gaylord had a white carriage and horse to match. Miss Elizabeth Young of Pine Orchard drove one of her cobs in a carriage tastefully decorated with autumn leaves and flowers. Miss Mary Plant and Mrs. Wilson Thompson also had very attractive rigs, the former's being done in white and pink, and the latter's in white and yellow.

One of the best carriages in the pro-

the seventeenth century and the horse which drew it is forty-four years old, being the property of ex-Postmaster Henry D. Linsley.

The procession was headed by the Chief Marshal, Mr. F. E. Beach, and he had as aides a bevy of young ladies, as well as the regular assistant marshals. The Branford Military band and the Stony Creek Drum Corps supplied the music. The Second Platoon, Battery A, C. N. G., turned out and the hook and ladder companies of the Branford Fire department did also.

After the parade there was singing by the school children, an address by Hon. W. J. Clark, of Stony Creek, who took the place on the program allotted to Congressman Sperry, who did not feel equal to attending the festivities.

The southeast corner of the green

worthy of the premium ribbons which were awarded, there being no other premiums given.

At Pythian Hall, however, a rare treat was in store for all. This is the largest hall in Branford, the auditorium being 85x50 feet, and every inch of space was utilized. Around the hall of the first floor 20 commodious booths were constructed and were artistically decorated. In them was displayed the goods of the merchants, who gave away hundreds of samples of their wares. The entire center of the hall was given up to the display of fruits and vegetables, and the best of the produce of the farms and gardens was displayed here. Branford can certainly be proud of this display. A prominent New Haven fruit and produce farmer, who was present, said that he had visited a number of the fairs this fall, but the exhibit in that hall was by far the best he had seen this year, both in quality and quantity.

On the second floor was a display of works of art, curios and flowers, which it is impossible to describe. In a room at the head of the stairs were hung the work of some of Branford's best artists. Mrs. Douglas of Driftwood, Short Beach, sent up over twenty of her best pictures, and Miss M. Annie Bostwick sent as many more. The latter's views included many beautiful scenes along the Branford coast. Miss Violet Miller, also of Short Beach, showed a large number of portraits. Mrs. M. E. Towner showed a picture of the old house, which stood on the site of the present handsome Blackstone Memorial Library. There were many other handsome views which space will not permit of mention. A curiosity, which did not come in until late, was a picture representing the Branford green as it appeared 200 years ago, which was sent in by Mr. Eckford Davis.

In the lodge room was a display of ladies' handiwork, which was a credit to the ladies of Branford. Here were exhibits of laces, embroidery, drawn-work, hand painted china, sofa pillows, bed quilts and hundreds of other articles dear to woman's heart. There were



A GLIMPSE OF THE PARADE.

the farmers, fruit growers and others. The carnival idea originated at one of the regular meetings held in July and a committee was appointed to work it up. The idea grew and developed much as the snowball which is rolled by young America in the winter, and the climax was reached Wednesday when a genuine country fair with all its accessories was held on the historic green and in Pythian Hall, which immediately adjoins the green on South Main street.

It was an old home day for Branford, and her citizens were out en masse to greet old friends and extend a hearty welcome to the visiting stranger. One feature which was certainly appreciated by everybody was the large tent which was erected on the Montowese side of the green. A large number of chairs were collected and placed under the tent and were at the disposal of any who desired and they were occupied most of the time.

The feature of the morning program, and it might, in truth, be said of the whole day, was the parade. An urgent invitation had been extended to the citizens to participate in this parade with a trimmed vehicle. The committee in charge expected the members of the association would decorate their wagons and that there would also be a few trimmed carts. About 9 o'clock the vehicles commenced to arrive and they kept coming until after 11 o'clock, and when the line was formed there were over 100 vehicles. The line of march was around the green, and notwithstanding a close formation, the head of the procession overlapped the last carriage on the second trip around. Some of the vehicles were real works of art and represented many hours and days of hard work in their preparation; others were comical. There were floats trimmed with farm produce and the fruits of an abundant harvest; others were trimmed with bunting. There were sulky plows and hay tethers, wound with yards and yards of white bunting, carriages treated in the same manner and decorated with flowers and autumn leaves. The school children were provided with floats—one for each grade—and the business men had large displays of their wares and business pursuits. The famous Ark of Indian Neck, with Noah (Captain George Averill) at the helm, was reproduced in miniature and was true to life. There were several very handsomely trimmed carriages, and these included a carriage from Cherry Hill, the home of John W. Nichols. This was all in white, and was decorated with autumn leaves. The harnesses were all wound in white. It was drawn by two handsome bays and was certainly a handsome rig. Mrs. George Evans rode in a carriage



TRIMMED WAGON WITH SCHOOL CHILDREN.

cession was that containing the oldest couple in town. They are Mr. Watson Goddard, 93 years, and Mrs. Lorena Smith, age 91. The carriage, which is owned by S. A. Griswold, was made in

was given up to the exhibition of live stock, poultry, etc., and while the exhibits in these departments were not exceptionally large, there was a good showing and the stock exhibited was well

also large collections of curios, from all over the world, old coins, a set of china seventy-five years old, antiques of all kinds, specimens of pyrography, stuffed animals, and—but the list is altogether too long to mention, and any description would give but a faint idea of the wonderful collection displayed, and when it is considered that it was all brought in without personal solicitation, simply on the general invitation to help make the carnival a success, it is all the more wonderful.

The program for the afternoon included a band concert from the stand on the green, and the athletic sports which were held on Montowese street. There were probably 10,000 people present in the afternoon, and the best part of the carnival was that there were no accidents of any consequence and positively no disorder of any kind.

It was a great day for Branford and for the Branford Business Men's association.

The exhibit in the hall was kept intact and the hall was open again Thursday afternoon and evening. Harmony orchestra of Branford was present and played the entire evening. The hall was filled with a merry throng of townspeople, who made it quite a social affair. Several of the merchants served coffee, chocolate and crackers, sandwiches, etc., down stairs, and about 10 o'clock, when the exhibitors commenced to take out their stock, liberal quantities of these were passed around.



A CORNER OF THE LADIES' INDUSTRIAL EXHIBIT.