CUSTOM HOUSE GOSSIP.

NEITHER WILLIS NOR JACOBUS TO BE MADE SURVEYOR.

Gen. Knapp will be Naval Officer if he Wants the Place—A Precedent for Reconstructing the Local Civil Service Examining Board—Deputy Collector.

Early in Collector Hedden's short administration Andrew D. Parker, then private secretary of the Collector, was elected Chairman of the Local Examining Board. Mr. Arthur Berry, who had just been appointed Special Deputy Collector, was made Secretary of the Examining Board. Both were Democrats. The United States Civil Service Commission was then, as now, Republican. The Commission objected to Mr. Parker as Chairman of the Board because he was private secretary to a nominating officer, the Collector. The Commission objected to Mr. Berry as Secretary of the local Board because, as Special Deputy Collector, he was a nominating officer in the absence of the Collector. The Republican Chinese Commission insisted that both should resign their places on the local Chinese Board. They did.

The present Chairman of the local Board is Mr. John M. Comstock, special deputy Naval Officer and acting Naval Officer in the absence of Col. Burt, the nominating officer for his department of the service. The present acting Secretary of the Board is Mr. Theodore Babcock, who is known as private secretary to Col. Burt. Mr. Babcock is really a clerk in the Naval Office, detailed as Col. Burt's private secretary, and now as acting secretary to the local Board. Mr. Comstock, as a nominating officer in the absence of Col. Burt, and Mr. Babcock, as private secretary to Col. Burt, stand just as Mr. Parker and Mr. Berry stood in relation to Collector Hedden.

Mr. Lyman, the sole survivor of the Cleveland Chinese Board, is fully aware of this state of affairs and of the fuss that he and Mr. Edgerton made over a similar situation nearly four years ago. Mr. Roosevelt also knows of it. But Mr. Comstock and Mr. Babcock forgot on last election night their songs of praise for Mr. Cleveland, and raised their voices to swell the chorus of the Harrison victors. Nevertheless, the Democrats think that Gov. Thompson should have snap enough in him to insist upon a change.

The Local Examining Board should have nine members, and it has only four, Mr. Comstock, Mr. Babcock, Mr. Nicoll, and Mr. Walden. According to the statutes five or seven constitute a quorum. It must not at any time be less than five, and it is declared by eminent Chinese logicians that the statutes insist that the quorum of the Board is seven. Therefore the acts of the present Board and the certifications of its Chairman and its secretary are believed to be illegal. If so, how about the validity of its eligible lists?

It is now definitely known that neither Mr. Theodore Willis nor Mr. John Wesley Jacobus will be made Surveyor of the Port. It is even said that President Harrison has never for a moment considered the appointment of Mr. Jacobus. The talk about Mr. James S. Smart getting the place is also pronounced by authorities to be without foundation. There are occasional whispers to the effect that ex-Police Commissioner Stephen B. French has a chance. But it is not much of a chance. In fact, at church time last night the situation was that the President will appoint the new Surveyor some time next month, and that the appointee will be an unknown satisfactory to the recognized Republican leaders in the state.

As to the succession of Col. Burt, it is announced that he will be named at the same time, and that he will be Gen. John N. Knapp. It was suggested that possibly Gen. Knapp's appointment will eventually lessen the prominence of Mr. Comstock and Mr. Babcock as civil service authorities.

It is just possible that Col. Erhardt will be ready to appoint this week two more deputy collectors.

The holidays of Surveyor Beattie's staff of women inspectors end with this morning. From now until late in the fall the ocean travel will require their attendance from 7 in the morning until late in the evening.

It is now known that Mr. Joseph Treloar's chances for reappointment to his old place of chief clerk of the correspondence room are right out of ten. It is said that Mr. Treloar will be compelled to pass a civil service examination, as the last ruling of the Chinese Commissioners exempts only deputy collectors, the cashier, assistant cashiers, the auditor, the chief acting disbursing officer, and the private secretary of the Collector.

Gen. Williams, head of the public stores, began work on the Democratic laborers on Saturday. He removed four and enjoyed the process.

The messengers in the Custom House do not relish being asked for their resignations. Some of them refuse to resign, preferring that Col. Erhardt should use his prerogative and remove them. For every messenger removed there are fifty applicants for the place.

Col. Erhardt, after a visit to the rotunda, ordered the partitions and the ring cleared of all fancy pictures. These pictures made the rotunda look like a cheap east side barroom. Some were offensive, and nearly all were in shabby taste.

Among the hundreds of the hungry Republicans who trail in and out of the departments one frequently hears the remark that this is the age of political ingratitude. This criticism is directed against President Harrison. The Democrats are highly amused at the grumbling, and think that Harrison is doing pretty well. One of these Democrats believes that the clearing-out business on a big scale will be so timed as to come along about a month before election day, in order to revive the hopes of the discouraged Republicans.

PARALYZED A HORSE-CAR LINE.

One Little Sagging Wire in Grand Street Worse Than a Low Bridge.

The storm of Saturday loosened a telephone wire on the northwest corner of Chrystie and Grand streets, and it became twisted around some live electric light wires. Yesterday morning the loose wire sagged across the Second avenue down-town car tracks, and the drivers had to hoist it up as they swung around the corner. About 9 o'clock George Miller stopped his car and tried to pull the wire down. He caught the slack of it with the iron hook used for uncoupling the horses and pulled. In an instant a current of electricity ran through him, and his body became rigid. He was unable to let go or to speak. A bystander caught hold of him and tried to pull him away, and the shock was transmitted to the good Samaritan, knocking him off his feet. Somebody knocked aside the wire with a cane, and the two men got away.

As soon as Miller was released he sat down on the curbstone, weak and faint. An ambulance was summoned from Gouverneur Hospital, and in the mean time a sympathizing crowd stood around and exhorted Miller to cheer up. Second avenue cars kept accumulating at the corner until the conductor of Miller's car started them rolling by assuming the double job of driver and conductor. The ambulance surgeon found Miller's injury was not serious, and he went home. The man who was knocked down went away also without leaving his card. Some time later the wire was repaired.

Another electric light wire that was loosened by Saturday's storm set fire to the ties on the down-town track of the Third avenue elevated road, between Hester and Canal streets.

Killed While Picking Flowers.

Waller Clark, aged 10 years, whose mother lives at 2,254 Seventh avenue, died at the Manhattan Hospital yesterday from a fractured skull. A week ago last Saturday he wandered away from home to a big hill at 155th street and Seventh avenue, on the top of which he went picking flowers. He accidentally fell over and landed in the road twenty feet below. He struck on his head and was picked up unconscious. He lingered in the hospital until yesterday. The boy's father is dead. His mother owns some flat houses at Seventh avenue and 133d street.

Court Calendars This Day.

SUPREME COURT—GENERAL TERM.—Calendar for the third Monday in June. Nos. 1 to 24 inclusive called at 10 o'clock. CHAMBERS—Calendar of motions called at 10 o'clock. Special TERM—Part I.—Demurrers Nos. 312, 321, 330, 332, 333, 339, 340, Law and fact. Nos. 1020, 1021. Cases for the term. Part II.—No day calendar. Part III.—Nos. 2449, 2414, 2372, 2556, 2107, 2705, 2154, 2307, 2747, 2748, 2749, 2755, 2329, 2761, 2771, 2761. Part IV.—Case adjourned. 2528, 2424, 2720, 1700, 2715, 1275, 2422.

SUPREME COURT—Will of J. J. B. Frey, 10 A. M.; Katie Cronmiller, 1:30 A. M.; James O'Neill, 12 M. Motions—Will of E. A. Roberts, M. P. Cole & F. A. Burrows, 10 A. M.; Will of J. E. Cooper, M. W. Roberts, 10:30 A. M.; Will of Sigmund Haas, 10:30 A. M.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS—GENERAL TERM.—Adjourned until June 24. TRIAL TERM.—No 516. TRIAL TERM.—Part I. 1821, 1470, 1397, 1398, 1399, 1400, 1401, 1421, 1475, 1397, 1398, 1399, 1400, 1401, 1421, 1475, 1397, 1398, 1399, 1400, 1401, 1421, 1475