

was so plentiful, and the saw mills were turning out planking faster than it could be carted away. It was labour which was so hard to get, and so expensive. But they did their very best, with such help as they could obtain. Bob Townsford worked like a day-labourer, while Elgar did his utmost too, and even Mrs. Townsford came down to Yokohama Street, bringing a hammer with her, and drove nails with the skill of an expert. The three little girls, Etta, May and Pinkie, ran errands, fetched, carried, and prepared food for the other workers, so that there was not one idle person, and the work went on apace.

In four days the roof was ready for the shingles. And on the fifth morning Elgar opened the store in the front room, which extended the whole length of the front of the building, while the back part was divided into two portions, for eating, and sleeping.

There was a flaming notice board outside, which set forth in big letters all the conveniences which would accrue to every one from the opening of the new store, and although the stock inside, was neither large nor varied, consisting mainly of bacon, beans, and a few articles of wearing apparel, the energy of the salesman was so great, that by lighting-up time, there was scarcely anything left to buy.

It was then that leaving the store a minute to take care of itself, Elgar came rushing in search of his aunt, begging to know if she had any more clothes which she could spare, for he had sold every garment in the store, and it was clothes which people seemed to be most keen upon buying.

"There are the children's Sunday frocks, but if you take them, the poor mites will have to go without until I can make some more," said Mrs. Townsford,