

**For the Drummers.**

When you see a traveling man at table help himself to potatoes with their jackets on, look out for him, he is preparing to make a mash.

A Wisconsin landlord recently notified some of his drummer patrons not to order more than they could eat up clean. —*Merchant Traveller.*

There appears to be a general movement to abolish the taxes in various parts of the United States on commercial travellers. The travelers themselves are working in the matter, and their friends in Congress will probably make another push to abolish the taxes.

The regulations against commercial travelers in Alabama are to be made more stringent. A new law which went into effect January 1, retains the tax of \$10 fixed by the old law, but adds a provision that all contracts made by the traveling agents who have not paid the license tax shall be void as to both of the parties thereto. This provision is intended to force payment of the tax, which has hitherto been evaded in a large number of cases.

A travelling man, who was seldom at home except on Sunday, had occasion to chastise his eldest boy one Sabbath about three weeks ago. As soon as the shingle seance was over the child ran crying into the house.

"Why, Johnny, what is the matter?" asked the mother in alarm.

"That big fellow's been licking me," whimpered the boy.

"What fellow do you mean, Johnny?"

"Why, that fellow what stays here Sunday," replied the urchin, with a gulp.

"The life of a commercial traveller is not the greatest fun in world," says *The Merchant*, "nor does the man of the grip-sack become the richest man on the earth. At the same time the life has some compensations. A good man is almost invaluable to a house and commands good pay. There is a traveller for a Chicago soap house who gets \$4,000 a year and a liberal allowance for expenses; but the average salary would be about \$1,200. Many of the prominent wholesale merchants of Canada and the United States started their career on the road; and, as is well known, quite a number of principals still handle the grip, off and on, throughout the year."

**Barbed Fences and Hides.**

The question of barbed wire fences as an element of danger to cattle and other stock and an agent of injury to hides has been frequently discussed. There is no question of the fact that much injury can be done and has been done to hides by the barbs on wire fences, and it is not strange that the subject has come up as a matter of litigation in a court of law. Such a case has tried in the New Jersey Supreme Court, and the owner of a barbed wire fence adjoining a field in which a colt was grazing, was held responsible for the loss of the colt when he got entangled in the fence and injured as to cause his death. Being the decision of a high court, this decision will be a matter of great importance to those who use wire fences or who have stock injured in them. Tanners and hide men will be much pleased to have them abolished. "The dangers that menace the quality of hides are numerous enough, without having them lurking in every panel of fence around a pasture." —*Leather Gazette.*

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