

to slip it into the breast pocket of his jacket, and then he finished stepping out the boundary, and went back to his uncle, to find that the purchase was so far completed, that Bob Townsford had decided to buy, the deposit was just about to change hands, and the building of the store was to start that very afternoon.

"Then I guess that I have got to be busy," said Elgar, at which his uncle laughed, and asked him what he could find to do until the roof was on, unless indeed he were going to turn carpenter.

"If you are going to open a store I guess that you will want some customers, and the more we can get beforehand, the more we can make things hum when we do start," replied Elgar, with such an air of understanding what he was about, that his uncle took a sudden determination and replied :

"I tell you what it is, boy, you have got the head of a grown man on those young shoulders of yours, and so you shall have a man's privileges, so far as I can give them to you, and you shall start as a partner from the very beginning. We will open as Townsford & Hunt, general providers, and we will engage to supply everything, from herrings to false hair, and from cradles to coffins, we shall be able to make the thing boom at a fine rate you will see."

"I hope so," replied Elgar, rather dubiously. His experience had been that it was easier to make things boom in theory than in practice, and he mostly wanted some very firm ground upon which to rest his hopes.

"Well, how are you going to start getting customers?" asked his uncle, after a short pause given up to calculations on how many feet of lumber would