

## BOOK TABLE.

**RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING FREIGHT TRAFFIC.** By Alfred L. Fraser, of the general freight department of the New York Central & Hudson River railroad; chief clerk general freight office Rome Watertown & Ogdensburg railroad, N. Y., C. & H. R. R. R. company, lessee, New York city.

This volume of 200 pages constitutes a needed manual of practical information in regard to freight traffic, and it will be found of great value to freight agents, cashiers, receiving clerks, billing clerks, freight conductors, delivery clerks, and all classes of railroad employes connected in any way with freight transportation. It is a full and apparently accurate exposition of the rules and regulations governing freight traffic, and of the established methods of procedure in dealing with the important and often perplexing questions that are constantly arising. Among the headings of topics are the following: Terms and conditions under which property is received for transportation; rules for guidance of agents; receiving and receipting for freight; United States government freight; cars, loading, handling and stowing freight; sealing cars; carding cars; weighing freight; manifesting freight; transferring freight; over, short or damaged freight; merchandise in bond, live stock, claims, etc. The appendix contains the full text of the act to regulate commerce, the interstate commerce law, and other matter of interest. The book is sent postpaid for \$2 by A. L. Fraser, publisher, Yonkers, N. Y.

Speaking of that primitive but reliable means of transportation, the camel, the author of that very interesting paper, "A winter ride to the great wall of China," in the January Century says:

The popular idea regarding "the ship of the desert" is completely at fault if applied to the camels of Mongolia and Pechili. Juvenile natural histories talk of the soft padded foot for which this animal is so distinguished, as if a "sandy bottom" were the only surface upon which he could walk with comfort. But the greater part of all mercantile transport in north China is performed by camels and, except in the immediate neighborhood of Peking, sand is an unknown luxury to this much-enduring beast. How vast is the number of camels thus employed may be guessed from the fact that during our day's journey we passed more than 800 wending their dilatory way from the Tartar steppes to the plains of Chi-li. They chiefly carried soda soap, a kind of animal alkali or lye found on the borders of Mongolia and cut into blocks each weighing about 260 pounds. At no time is the camel a prepossessing object. But here nature provides him with so shaggy a covering that his ungainly form becomes even more hideous. Camel's wool, by the way, used for padding clothes, is an article of considerable traffic hereabouts, and when spring zephyrs take the place of winter blasts the herdsmen of the plateau shear their camels by a process which preserves the merit of extreme simplicity, pulling out by hand whatever has not been shed naturally. Many animals are kept for the sole purpose of yielding wool.