

\$4200 Reward!

The Short-story Publishing Company, Boston, Mass., will pay \$4,200 in cash prizes, ranging from \$100 to \$1,000 each, to those who will tell in writing some unusual experience, thrilling adventure, or fascinating story of the imagination in a style that will interest the hundreds of thousands of readers of THE BLACK CAT, the unique short-story magazine which has won the title of "The story-telling hit of the century." This prize competition is open to all, and each story will be judged solely upon its merits without regard to the name or reputation of its writer; but no story will be considered at all unless it is sent strictly in accordance with the printed conditions, which will be mailed free, postage paid, to any one, together with a complete specimen copy of the magazine, and references of the men and women in all parts of America who have received over \$30,000 cash for BLACK CAT stories, and who have received information of real value to all who are interested in earning money at home.

MINOR NEWS ITEMS.

The number of marriages in Manhattan and Bronx this year will be greater than ever in their history.

The Ancient Mechanical Society of Baltimore celebrated its 16th anniversary recently.

An attack of melancholia caused Mrs. Samuel Miller, of Portchester, N. Y., to cut her tongue with a pair of scissors.

The oldest existing church in New Hampshire is the Congregational at Hampton, which was organized in August, 1638.

The state prison building at Sing Sing, N. Y., has been condemned by a committee of the New York State Prison Association.

The best maple syrup comes from the north side of the tree, but the flow is not so large as when the tree is tapped on the south side.

At a recent auction sale at Zurich more than 1000 gold and silver Swiss coins of the 15th to the 19th centuries were disposed of.

On the big stamer Oceanic there is no seat at the table marked 13, nor a cabin bearing that number. This is a concession to superstition.

In Connecticut the percentage of criminal population to the 1,000 inhabitants has fallen steadily from 2.48 in 1886 to 2.33 in the present year.

The Noah Webster Association, which has just been organized at Hartford, Conn., will procure funds for the erection of a library building in memory of the lexicographer.

The vegetable ivory of Ecuador is the net of a native palm. The exports amount to 11,500 tons per annum, of which two-thirds go to Germany and one-sixth to the United States.

New York wants a museum of "Living History and Court of all Nations," to cost several millions, exhibiting contemporaneous art and manufacture from every country in the world.

Thunder storms are more frequent in Iowa than in any other part of the world. The average is one about every fourth day. Samra has 86 in a year, and Rio Janeiro 51.

That the spores of mildew are disturbed by snails and worms has been proven by Mr. F. L. Stevens, of the University of Chicago. The mildew appeared in the path these creatures had taken over fresh leaves.

Funds are being collected in Denmark for the purpose of bringing to their native land the remains of two famous Danes who were buried abroad, Tycho Brahe in France, and the poet Jens Baggesen in Kiel.

The German firm of Krupp are said to be making trial of some light five-centimeter field pieces which are constructed of compressed paper. The good service of paper in car wheels suggested the experiment.

A Chicago workman has discovered a process by which plate glass can be made from slag, the waste material in iron and steel manufacture, and the Federal steel trust proposes to build a plant to turn out the new product.

The whole of the dry land on this planet scarcely exceeds 50,000,000 of square miles. Forty millions are under cultivation, leaving, as Professor Keane says, no more than 12,000,000 for the now reduced domain of the other divisions.

The life-sized bronze equestrian statue of Frederick the Great, by J. L. Gerome, the French sculptor, which he will exhibit at the Paris exposition, has been purchased by Peter Gibson, of Cincinnati, and immediately after the exposition it will be shipped to this country.

James S. Galloway, of Hillsdale, Mich., has just purchased the whole of Morgan county, Ontario, 89 1/2 square miles, for the white pine timber upon it. He could cut nearly if not quite 100,000,000 feet, but intends to hold most of it, awaiting developments.

Mrs. Marie Melms, widow of Charles Melms, the pioneer Milwaukee brewer, died in Germany recently and was cremated there. Her remains have just arrived at Milwaukee through the medium of the United States mails. This is said to be the first use of the mails for such a purpose.

Solon Borglum, a Parisian sculptor, has been in South Dakota for the last three months making models in clay of Indians for the Paris exposition.

It is said that Admiral Dewey's son receives a sample every time an article named for Dewey is put on the market, whether it be a cravat, a collar, a hat, a cigar, a brand of whisky or anything else. He has adorned his rooms with these samples, and it is probably the most remarkably decorated room in America.

HAPPENINGS OF 1899.

SUMMARY OF A YEAR'S IMPORTANT EVENTS.

War in Philippine Islands and South Africa. The Dreyfus Trial, Political Difficulties in Samoa, Death and Destruction by Fire, Wind and Flood.

Many causes have combined to make the year 1899 a rather remarkable one. Its opening was signalized by Spain's surrender in the last vestige of her sovereignty in the western hemisphere; its progress brought forth the declaration of war between England and the Transvaal Republic, and its close leaves these nations still engaged in a bloody contest, that may result in important political changes in South Africa. During the year the fighting between the natives and United States troops in the Philippines has continued and the war is yet open.

Other events, aside from warfare, that have occupied public attention to a greater or less extent have been: Signing of the treaty of peace with Spain; settlement of difficulties in the Samoan Islands; trial, conviction and pardon of Captain Alfred Dreyfus in France; numerous large fires that have destroyed many lives and much property; tornadoes that caused disaster and death at Kirksville, Mo., in April, and at New Richmond, Wis., in June; several fatal shipwrecks; deaths of prominent men, among them President Felix Faure of France, Garret A. Hobart, Vice-President of the United States, and Robert G. Ingersoll; great street car strike at Cleveland and labor riots at Chicago and St. Louis.

A brief chronological transcript of the year's events is given below:

January.

1-Spain resigns sovereignty over Cuba.

4-Traffic held up and robbed at Macomb, Ill., by a party with Spain introduced in the Senate.

9-Fourteen persons killed and forty-eight injured in a collision near New York, N. Y.

10-McCoy defeated by Sharkey in New York.

11-Severe storm in California.

12-George Lewis, of Maine, destroys wholesale dry goods house of J. S. Menkin & Co., and causes \$300,000 loss. Death of Charles J. Folger, of Maine.

14-British bark Adelina sinks at Tacoma with entire crew of nineteen men.

17-Death of John Russell Young, Librarian of Congress.

18-Terrible storm at Cleveland, German consul at Apia, Samoa, ejected from Supreme Court Building by American and British consuls.

20-Bank at Arthur, Ill., robbed of \$3,000.

21-Earthquake shakes Peloponnese peninsula of Greece. Massacre of Spanish officers by natives at Balabac, in the Philippines.

22-One hundred thousand dollars damage done by fire at Johnston, Pa. Adelina Fatil and Baron Cederstrom married at Bremen, Wales.

23-Ex-Artillery General A. H. Garland dies suddenly in Washington. Court martial over the case of Chas. R. Kogan guilty under two charges.

26-Cold wave over the West; 13 degrees below zero in Chicago.

30-Two hundred thousand dollar lumber yard fire in Chicago.

February.

1-Seven persons perish in snowslide in Rogers Pass, B. C.

2-\$750,000 fire in Columbus, Ohio, in which many are injured. Burning of the Buckingham Theater, Louisville, Ky.

3-Battle between Philippine and Americans at Manila. Mrs. Botkin receives life sentence for murder. James A. Sexton, Commander of U. S. S. Albatross in Washington.

4-Last detachment of Spanish army leaves Cuba. Death of Gen. Count von Caprivi, former Chancellor German Empire. Peace treaty ratified by United States Senate.

5-Manitoba Hotel at Winnipeg burns; loss \$400,000. Eleven business houses burn in Philadelphia, Pa.

9-Twenty-one degrees below zero at Chicago; coldest day in twenty-six years.

10-\$200,000 fire in Port Jervis, New York. Five business houses at Herrington, Kan., burn.

10-Explosion in Baxter Stone Works, Mansfield, Ohio, causes a \$100,000 fire. Kelly Block in Cleveland burns; loss \$150,000.

11-Fire in Toronto. American troops capture Calocan.

11-Troops under Gen. Miller take Iloilo and Zamboanga outside Manila in the Philippines are driven back.

12-Twenty-four Italian miners and families perish in snowslide at Silver Lake, Colo. McClurg's book store in Chicago burns; loss \$502,000. Seventeen insane persons burned in Toronto, Ont.

13-Report of War Investigating Board on the sinking of the Washington. Great fire in New York City and Albany, N. Y.

13-Light, N. S., almost wiped out by fire.

14-\$500,000 fire in manufacturing district of Cincinnati. Burning of manufacturers' building in Chicago; loss \$1,000,000.

15-Machine shops in Brooklyn navy yard burned.

16-Death of M. Felix Faure, President of France.

18-Emile Loubet chosen President of France. Riots in Paris.

20-Fire causes \$500,000 loss at Port Washington, Wis. Manila freed by Filipinos.

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March.

1-Death of Lord Herschell in Washington. Sagasta ministry resigns at Madrid. Undershaft reached on Samoan affairs.

2-Storm destroys life and property in East Tennessee. New ministry takes office at Madrid. Terrible powder explosion at San Francisco, kills sixty persons.

9-Rev. T. DeWitt Talmage resigns his Washington pastorate. Battle between British and Canadian on Porcupine River, B. C.

10-Maximo Gomez deposed from command by Cuban Assembly.

13-Frank captured by American troops. Undershaft reached on Samoan affairs.

14-Herbert Putnam, of Boston, appointed Congressional Librarian.

15-Disasterous mine explosion at Palmetto, Ga. Death of Editor Joseph Medill.

16-Fire killed in street riot at Hot Springs, Ark. Election riot in Chicago. Results in death of two men. B. P. Hutchinson, wheat operator, dies at Lake Geneva, Wis.

18-Peace treaty signed by the Queen Regent of Spain. Windsor Hotel burns in New York with great loss of life.

20-Earthquake at Havana.

22-Mrs. Martha Place electrocuted at Sing Sing.

24-Death of Mrs. W. J. O'Grady at Hot Springs, Ark., where many negroes are lynched.

25-Malletton Thomas crowned King of Samoa.

27-Opening of ship canal at Port Arthur, Texas.

27-Burning of Armour's felt works in Chicago.

28-American and British warships bombard five towns in Samoa. Sinking of the steamer Iowena Lee in the Mississippi below Carthageville, Mo.

30-One hundred and twenty lives lost by shipwreck of passenger steamer Stella in the Gulf of Mexico.

31-Fall of Malolos. \$500,000 fire in San Francisco.

April.

7-Eleven lives lost in burning of Wallace Andrews' residence in New York.

8-Death of Justice S. J. Field, retired.

9-Seventeen lives lost by breaking of an iceberg on Yellowstone River at Glendive, Montana.

10-Seventy persons killed in riot at Pans, Illinois.

11-Exchange of peace treaties with Spain ends the state of war. Greek coaster Maria sunk off Tripoli with loss of forty-five lives.

12-Twenty-three Crow Indians drowned in floods near Sheridan, Wyo.

13-Great fire in Cleveland; loss almost \$1,000,000.

18-Fishing schooner Eliza lost off Nantucket, with eleven of her crew.

24-Death of ex-Gov. R. J. Oglesby of Ill. notes. Thirty persons drowned in wreck of the ship Loch Shiel on Kangaroo Island.

25-Dawson City, Alaska, almost wiped out by fire.

27-Tornado at Kirksville and Newtown, Mo., and in Soldier River valley, Iowa. Scores killed and injured.

28-Earthquake shakes Southern Illinois and Indiana and Northern Kentucky. Fatal mine riots at Warden, Idaho.

May.

1-Destructive forest fires in South Dakota, Nebraska and Colorado.

3-Resignation of Italian cabinet.

5-Opening of Ute reservation in Colorado.

6-Fire killed by typhoid in Chicago. Persons.

6-G. O. T. Death of Mrs. W. C. Whitney.

7-Report of Wade Court of Inquiry given out.

8-Russell & Co.'s theater works at Madison, Ohio, burned; loss \$500,000.

9-Death of ex-Gov. R. F. Davis of New York. Twenty-five persons killed in railway collision at Exeter, Pa.

10-Death of Francis Searcy, noted French critic. Riot at Princeton between students and Pawnee Bill's Wild West.

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Another New Industry for Albany.

Another new industry will soon be in operation in this city, says the Albany Herald, if everything is satisfactory. W. H. Nudd, of the firm of Nudd & Taylor, of Centralia, Wash., was in this city recently looking for a location, and seemed pleased with the outlook. The firm manufactures wooden eave gutters, conductors and moldings, and is a solid institution. It has offices at Minneapolis, Minn., and turns out yearly several million feet of its product. The company employs 25 men and manufactures its entire product out of fir. The product is mostly sent east of the Mississippi river to market. The company comes without solicitation, and is not seeking a bonus or inducement.

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BRADSTREET'S REVIEW.

Temporary Reaction From the Heaviest Holiday Trade on Record.

Bradstreet's says: Holiday influence and stock-taking impart an appearance of dullness to general distributive trade, but however, by fair activity in recoverer business to fill up stocks depleted by the heaviest holiday trade that has ever been experienced.

Anticipation of spring trade wants has given a more than ordinarily active appearance to business in dry goods at New York, while in industrial lines the efforts of manufacturers to keep up with filled order-books is resulting in unusually active operations. Following the flurry in money, stocks and in some lines of speculative operations, as modities noted last week, has come, as was expected, a more cheerful tone, and a firming up in quotations is noted in such staples as cotton, which was effected by last week's hog products, colts, and also in lead. The strength of iron and steel, seasonable quiet regards new business is observable, but unabated activity on earlier booked orders is reported. In some cases, new shutdown was made for the holidays by mills and furnaces.

Wheat (including flour) shipments for the week aggregated 3,610,537 bushels, against 2,813,714 bushels last week, 6,292,625 bushels in the corresponding week of 1898, 5,495,061 bushels in 1895.

For the year, failures are the smallest in number for 17 years past, and were not for a few heavy financial suspensions in December, liabilities, which will exceed those of 1892 slightly, would have been smallest for 12 years past.

PACIFIC COAST TRADE.

Seattle Markets.

Onions, new, \$1.00@1.25 per sack.
Potatoes, new, \$1.60@2.00.
Beets, per sack, 75c@85c.
Turnips, per sack, 60c.
Carrots, per sack, 50c.
Parsnips, per sack, 75c@85c.
Cauliflowers, 75c@1.00 per dozen.
Cabbage, native and California, 7c@9c per 100 pounds.
Peaches, 65c@80c.
Apples, \$1.25@1.50 per box.
Pears, \$1.00@1.25 per box.
Prunes, 60c per box.
Watermelons, \$1.50.
Nutmegs, 60c@75c.
Butter—Creamery, 32c per pound; dairy, 17c@22c; ranch, 22c per pound.
Eggs—Firm, 50c@51c.
Cheese—Native, 16c.
Poultry—9@10c; dressed, 13@14c.
Hay—Fugot Sonnet timothy, \$12.00; choice Eastern Washington timothy, \$17.00@18.00.
Corn—Whole, \$3.00; cracked, \$3.25; feed meal, \$2.25.
Barley—Rolled or ground, per ton, \$21; whole, \$22.
Flour—Patent, per barrel, \$3.35; blended straight, \$3.10; California, \$3.25; buckwheat flour, \$6.00; Graham, per barrel, \$3.80; whole wheat flour, \$3.10; rye flour, \$3.80@4.00.
Milletstuffs—Bran, per ton, \$16.00; shorts, per ton, \$17.00.
Feed—Chopped feed, \$20.00 per ton; middlings, per ton, \$22; oil cake meal, per ton, \$32.00.

Portland Market.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 51c@52c; Valley, 52c@53c; Bluestem, 54c per bushel.
Flour—Best grades, \$3.00; Graham, \$3.50; superfine, \$3.15 per barrel.
Oats—Choice white, 34c@35c; choice gray, 34c per bushel.
Barley—Feed barley, \$15@16.00; brewing, \$18.00@18.50 per ton.
Milletstuffs—Bran, \$17 per ton; middlings, \$22; shorts, \$18; chop, \$16 per ton.
Hay—Timothy, \$9@10.50; clover, \$7@8; Oregon wild hay, \$6@7 per ton.
Butter—Fancy creamery, 50c@55c; seconds, 42c@45c; dairy, 37c@40c; store, 35c@35c.
Eggs—18@19c per dozen.
Cheese—Oregon full cream, 13c; Young America, 14c; new cream, 10c per pound.
Poultry—Chickens, mixed, \$2.50@3.50 per dozen; hens, \$4.00@5.00; springs, \$2.50@3.50; geese, \$7.00@9.00 for old; \$4.50@5.50 for young; ducks, \$4.50 per dozen; turkeys, live, 12c@13c per pound.
Potatoes—55@70c per sack; sweets, 2@2 1/2c per pound.
Vegetables—Beets, 1c; turnips, 9c per sack; garlic, 7c per pound; cauliflower, 75c per dozen; parsnips, 1c; beans, 5c@6c per pound; celery, 7c@7 1/2c per dozen; cucumbers, 50c per pound; peas, 3c@4c per pound; tomatoes, 75c per box; green corn, 12 1/2c@15c per dozen.
Hops—8@11c; 1898 crop, 5@6c.
Wool—Valley, 12@13c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 8@14c; mohair, 27@30c per pound.
Mutton—Gross, best sheep, 6 1/2c and ewes, 5 1/2c; dressed mutton, 6 1/2c@7c per pound; lambs, 7 1/2c per pound.
Hogs—Gross, choice heavy, \$6.00; light and feeders, \$4.50; dressed, \$5.50@6.00 per 100 pounds.
Beef—Gross, top steers, \$3.50@4.00; cows, \$3@3.50; dressed beef, 6 1/2c@7 1/2c per pound.
Veal—Large, 6 1/2c@7 1/2c; small, 8@8 1/2c per pound.

San Francisco Market.

Wool—Spring—Novada, 12@15c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 12@15c; Valley, 20@22c; Northern, 10@13c.
Hops—1899 crop, 11@13c per pound.
Onions—Yellow, 75c@85c per sack.
Butter—Fancy creamery 24c@26c; do seconds, 22@23c; fancy dairy, 20@21c; do seconds, 19c per pound.
Eggs—Store, 25@27 1/2c; fancy ranch, 34c.
Milletstuffs—Middlings, \$16.00@19.00; bran, \$13@14.00.
Hay—Wheat \$7.00@9.00; wheat and oat \$7.50@9.00; best barley \$5.00@7.50; alfalfa, \$5.00@7.50 per ton; straw, 35c@45c per bale.
Potatoes—Early Rose, \$1.00; Oregon Burbanks, 65c@1.10; river Burbanks, 45c@75c; Salinas Burbanks, \$1.00@1.25 per sack.
Citrus—Fruit—Oranges, Valencia, \$2.75@3.25; Mexican limes, \$4.00@5.00; California lemons 75c@1.50; do choice \$1.75@2.00 per box.
Tropical Fruits—Bananas, \$1.50@2.50 per bunch; pineapples, nominal; Persian dates, 6c@7 1/2c per pound.

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The outlook for the loggers is brighter now, says the Budget at Astoria, than it has been for a long time, notwithstanding that most of the logging camps are shut down for a time, while short days and bad weather are the rule. Some 5,000,000 or 6,000,000 cords of logs just floated out of the Elokanin river, have been sold to the North Pacific Lumber Company for \$6.50 per 1,000, which is the highest price paid for logs in this section for probably eight or ten years. This is encouraging to loggers, notwithstanding it is said the company needed the logs and had to pay a little more than their real market value.

Will Feed Pup.

Six hundred head of cattle belonging to Patterson & Armstrong arrived from Wallowa county, at La Grande, and were driven to the feeding grounds at the sugar factory there for winter feeding. Messrs. Patterson & Armstrong having purchased from the sugar company all the pulp from this season's run on which to feed their stock. The pulp of the sugar beet is said to be by those who have fed it to cattle, a most excellent article upon which to fatten stock, and imparts to the beef a most delicious flavor. Messrs. Patterson & Armstrong are experienced cattle-raisers, and it is thought their experiment will prove a success.

Another New Industry for Albany.

Another new industry will soon be in operation in this city, says the Albany Herald, if everything is satisfactory. W. H. Nudd, of the firm of Nudd & Taylor, of Centralia, Wash., was in this city recently looking for a location, and seemed pleased with the outlook. The firm manufactures wooden eave gutters, conductors and moldings, and is a solid institution. It has offices at Minneapolis, Minn., and turns out yearly several million feet of its product. The company employs 25 men and manufactures its entire product out of fir. The product is mostly sent east of the Mississippi river to market. The company comes without solicitation, and is not seeking a bonus or inducement.

Philomath Enterprise.

Philomath is to have a new schoolhouse. At a meeting of the enterprising citizens of that district last week it was voted to erect a schoolhouse to cost \$3,000, to contain five or six rooms, and to be equipped with all modern conveniences. A tax will be levied to raise \$1,000 and bonds sold to cover the other \$2,000. A fine site for the new structure has been selected, and work on the building will commence as soon as the weather will permit in the spring.

Bank Will Move.

The Rucker bank, at Everett, Wash., has secured a lease of the Northwest Trading Company's building, on Hewitt and Colby avenues, at Everett, and will move there about the first of the year. The banks are on the ground for the building of the vault, and as soon as completed the bank and fixtures will be transferred to their new quarters.

Perfumery Factors.

Frank M. Phelps, Ph. G., an Eastern chemist of 15 years' experience, is in Baker City with a view of locating there in business. He has visited many points in the Northwest, and has decided to locate at Baker City. He will establish a laboratory there for the manufacture and wholesale of first-class goods in the line of perfumes, extracts and toilet articles.

Sale of School Bonds.

The board of trustees of school district No. 36, Bingham county, Idaho, has offered for sale coupon bonds of that district to the amount of \$440, bearing interest at the rate of 8 per cent per annum, payable annually, redeemable in 10 years after date, for the purpose of building and providing a schoolhouse in said district with the necessary furniture.

New Lumber Company.

The Jones Lumber Company has filed articles of incorporation in the state department. The company will manufacture and deal in lumber and all manner of wood manufactures and merchandise in general. The principal office will be located in Portland.

Shingle Mill Progressing.

Work on the Reed & Million shingle mill at Mt. Argus, Wash., is progressing very satisfactorily. The machinery is being put in as rapidly as it arrives. The company has received the new Sturdevant fan for the hot blast in the dry house. This monster piece of machinery weighs 22,000 pounds and is 120 inches in diameter. It is the largest piece of machinery of the kind in that county, and probably the highest in any shingle mill on the coast.

Telephone Line to Seven Devils.

It is said plans are being made to extend the Union Telephone Company's line from Pine Valley to Cuprum, Idaho, in the Seven Devils country, via Ballard's Landing. This will be a great convenience to all that great mining section, as it will give them long-distance connection with the outside world, since the Union line connects at Union with the wires of the Inland Telephone Company.

Springfield, Mass., is building its first 17-story apartment house, to cost \$125,000.

ALONG THE COAST.

Commercial and Financial Happenings of Interest to the Growing Western States.

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