

### \$4200 Reward!

The Short-story Publishing Company, Boston, Mass., will pay \$4,200 in cash prizes, ranging from \$100 to \$2,000 each, to those who will tell in writing some unusual experience, thrilling adventure, or fascinating freak 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 5 complete specimen stories, and a copy of the magazine, in plain English, with references, of the men and women in all parts of America who have received over \$30,000 cash, for **BLACK CAT** stories, also information of the real value to all who are interested in examining them. Send address at once, as a contest closes March 31st. The Short-story Pub. Co., 64 High-Hartford Street, Boston, Mass.

#### 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 steamer 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 1896 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.

Under storms are more frequent in any other part of the world than in this country.  
The mammoth is one about every 500 years has 86 in a year, no 51.  
The ivory of Ecuador is the most valuable palm. The exports from that country are 11,500 tons per annum, of which two-thirds go to Germany and one-third to the United States.  
A Chicago workingman 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 52,000,000 of square miles. Forty millions are under caucasic sway, leaving, as Professor Keane says, not more than 12,000,000 for the now reduced domain of the other divisions.  
Judge Scott, of the district court at Omaha, has decided that the forcible entry of a saloon for the purpose of robbery is not burglary under the law, for the reason that the word "saloon" does not occur among the buildings mentioned in the statutes in the list of places subject to burglary.  
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, 39 1/4 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 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. He found some fine specimens of the American aboriginals among the Sioux at the Crow Creek agency, South Dakota, and succeeded in working up a half dozen models.

It is said that Admiral Dewey's secretary 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 room with these samples, and it is probably the most remarkably decorated room in America.

**PISO'S CURE FOR URINS WHERE ALL ELSE FAILS**  
Best Cough Syrup. Taste Good. Use in time. Sold by Druggists.

### HEMMED IN BY LAVA.

#### STILTS HELPED HIM THROUGH THE FIERY FLOOD.

Thrilling Experience of an English Traveler in Hawaii, When Mauna Loa Was in Active Eruption—Very Narrow Escape from Death.

A. R. Watson has just had one of the most thrilling experiences that ever befell a mountaineer. He ascended the Mauna Loa volcano in the Hawaiian Islands, while it was in a state of furious eruption. The party numbered five, with guides, pack mules, and a week's supply of provisions. By evening of the first day about a third of the hazardous climb had been achieved and the men camped in a grove of palms and ferns.  
At noon on the succeeding day all the members of the party, with the exception of Mr. Watson, concluded to examine the north cone of the crater, while Mr. Watson, with the idea that the southern cone was the most interesting, separated from his companions and guides and moved in that direction. After a weary and dangerous climb he arrived at a promontory of rock and earth. Close upon the inside of this knob a great river of lava was bounding in a straight line down the mountain, while about 800 feet above, on the slope of the hill, the crater, like the mouth of some infernal monster, was pouring forth melted stone.

Mr. Watson sat for a considerable time, probably a couple of hours, gazing upon the vast estuary of rolling, flowing, bursting fire rushing down the side of the mountain. Some thousand or more feet below this stream entered a thicket of trees which Mr. Watson observed through his glasses, seemed to have wonderful powers of resisting the attack of the flames.  
Toward night he arose from his seat below the rocks to go over the summit down the hill and walk out between the lava on the side which he was to cross. He thought that his eyes had been resting too long on running lava and that he could see such a stream in whichever quarter he might look; so he went forward.

But he had been mistaken. While he had been sitting with his back to the direction from which he had come and in which he must go, with his eyes on the flowing stream, enchanted with its marvels, there had broken from the lower edge of the crater, and some feet to the north of the one he was watching, a second flow. He started on down and had proceeded several hundred feet, when, to his horror and amazement, he discovered that the new stream of lava ran directly into the earlier stream. The streams joined and his retreat had been cut off. He was hemmed in by running rivers of fire.

As he meditated on the best means of escape his eye fell upon the sugar forest at the bottom of the incline, and he thought of the heat-defying properties of that wood. If he could only turn the bunch which grew above him into service. Ah! he had it—stilts! He had been an expert on stilts when a boy, and felt certain his skill had not forsaken him. Drawing a stout-bladed knife from his pocket, he began hewing at the base of one of the smallest trees. The wood was of the species known as iron wood. When the blade grew dull he whittled it on the rocks. All through the night he worked, while the terrible furnaces belched above him.

By daylight he had the stilts made, and, mounting them, started off to the edge of the flow. The wood smoldered, but did not blaze, as he waded through the lava. The heat was frightful, blistering his face and hands. As he arrived at the opposite edge of the river of fire one charred stilt broke off, but eager hands grasped him and lifted the swimming man on to one of the mules, in which manner he was taken to a rancher's house.—London Mail.

#### THE KING OF PALL.

Surrounded by His Followers, a Truly Medieval Picture Was Presented.

My first sight of the king of Pall was most imposing, says the Geographical Journal. Having heard of the approach of my party he came out to meet us. We had stopped the night before at the small village of Jepruh, beautifully situated on high ground and chiefly remarkable for the numbers of small green and red parrots that swarmed in the guinea cornfields all round it. It was the only place where I saw them in any quantities. We started off about 6:30, while the heavy dew was still sparkling on the grass, and soon met the head of the Pall contingent. First came 150 bowmen carrying nothing but their weapons and wearing only the smallest of loin cloths. At regular intervals among them were mounted officers. Next came a bodyguard of twenty picked men dressed in red gowns with white platts down the back and armed with every imaginable kind of gun, the locks of which were incased in leather. After passing these men I came on a really beautiful sight.  
The king had drawn up under the trees on one side of the path, and some forty or fifty mounted followers had arranged themselves all around and behind him. They were dressed for the most part in white gowns, but generally with either a colored lining or another colored gown underneath. Voluminous white or blue turbans covered their heads and some of them wore very handsome riding boots, though the majority were barefooted. The high-backed saddles were covered with brightly colored saddle cloths and the horses' heads were almost hidden by enormous bridles, covered with ornaments, which kept up a perpetual rattling as they tossed their heads about to keep off the flies.

On my approach they waved their spears over their heads with the butt to the front in token of friendship. This, with the king in the center wearing a cap of chain mail under his turban, and bowing with courtly grace, made a truly mediæval picture.

#### TWENTY-SEVEN CENTS A DAY.

Many Men Manage to Live Well on That Amount.

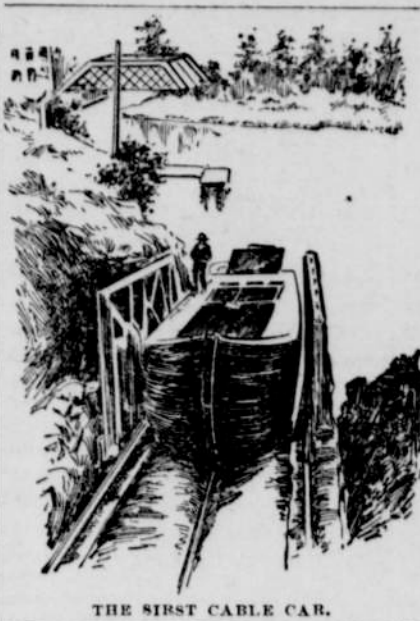
"Oh, yes, there are plenty of fellows in this city who live on 27 cents a day," said a dining room owner to a Washington Star reporter. The lunch man has been in the business for years, and knows what he is saying. "I'll tell you how they do it: They get up in the morning, and with 6 cents go to a 3-cent lunch room. There they procure a cup of coffee and a sandwich, each costing 3 cents, or something of that sort. This is sufficient for them. At lunch time they visit the 3-cent places again, and with a piece of pie and a glass of milk are contented until dinner. That is a total of 12 cents. At dinner they go to the regular lunch or dining rooms and eat themselves happy on 15 cents. At a number of regular dining rooms in the city a dinner can be bought for 1 cent, and will be a good one, too. I will consist of a soup and bread, one meat and one entree, two vegetables, a piece of pie or other dessert and a cup of tea or coffee. But where these sharpers do the lunch room proprietors is in another way. They have become so expert at the business that they know when each dining room is to have a certain dish for dinner, and, therefore, they have their pick of meats and other things. I remember that I used to serve chicken on a certain day. I soon found that these fellows were getting the best of me. All of them would visit me on 'chicken day,' and with their 15 cents would get a good dinner. The next day they would disappear, and would show up at the dining room of some other man. Of course, I couldn't stand the expense of this kind of business, and I disarranged the entire program of the young fellows by not having any regular bill of fare for every day in the week, as most dining rooms have. I lost some of this trade, but in doing so I think I made money. These 27-cent fellows can spend ice cream for days ahead and will be on hand. They are never suspected of their shrewd ways, because most of them dress well and hold good positions. For all I know they may do this to save money. I expect, however, that they simply save to spend in dress, and in making an appearance in other ways where their style will show to advantage."

#### SETTLED FOR THE DRESS.

No Claim Was Made by the Farmer for His Wife's Broken Limbs.  
"Just settled the strangest claim for damages that I ever had," laughed the railroad claim agent. "I was called down the road the other day to look up an accident that we had. We had run into an old farmer's wife, breaking both of her legs and an arm and using her up generally. I received orders from the general manager to go post-haste to the point of the accident and settle for it on the best terms I could get.  
"Just before I left the manager handed me a letter and said with a smile that I had better look into that, too, while I was about it, as it would not take me out of my way. When I was settled for the journey I took the letter out of my pocket and looked it over. It was a claim for five yards of calico, which the threat that if we didn't settle for it immediately suit would be commenced to compel us to. The claim was very vague, no reason being given why we should pay for five yards of calico, and I resolved to look the matter up to satisfy my own curiosity if nothing else.  
"However, the other case was more serious, so I looked that up first, and as I entered the house the old man, whose wife had been nearly killed, said grimly:  
"So you're here to settle that claim for damages? Well, it is mighty lucky that ye have come, for I was goin' to start suit again ye right away. My wife hadn't worn that thar dress more'n twice an' it was jes' ez good ez new."  
"Like a flash it dawned upon me that the two claims were identical. I managed to settle with the old man without falling dead, and when I left he shook hands with me cordially and said that he guessed all this talk about robber railroads was mostly newspaper gas for political effect."—Detroit Free Press.

#### FIRST CABLE CAR.

Remarkable Canal Between Phillipsburg and Newark, N. J., to Newark, N. J., there is a canal that is in many respects the most remarkable in existence. It is sixty miles long, and was in operation in New Jersey before a railroad existed in the State. Its most remarkable feature is that in place of the lock system in use on canals the boats are drawn up and down elevations on great cars with high sides and open ends on a track eighteen feet wide. These are the original cable cars. The principle by which they are operated, the endless cable, is exactly the same as that which was utilized for operating cable cars in cities. This method of transportation has been in use on the Morris canal for half a century, and antedates the introduction of cable cars by at least thirty-five years.



THE FIRST CABLE CAR.

The Pleasantest, Most Powerful and Effective Nervinal Remedy for La Grippe, Catarrh, Rheumatism.  
SWANSON RHEUMATIC CURE CO. 167 and 169 Dearborn St., Chicago.

Manchester, England, has opened lodging houses under the control of the city to accommodate 60 men.  
Throat Physic to the Dogs!  
The Wisconsin College of Music has been opened with an imposing building as its home in Milwaukee.  
Mothers will find Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup the best remedy to use for their children during the teething period.  
Detroit Democrats are making plans for a new party organ in that city.  
I believe my prompt use of Pilo's Cure prevented quick consumption.—Mrs. Lucy Wallace, Marquette, Kansas, Dec. 12, 1895.  
Baltimore claims the largest negro population in the world.  
VITALITY low, debilitated or exhausted cured by Dr. King's Invigorating Tonic. FREE 4c. Trial Bottle containing 2 Weeks' Treatment. Dr. King's Institute, 301 Arch St., Philadelphia. Founded 1871.

Rockford has the largest Woodmen's camp in Illinois, with 1,400 members.  
Improved Train Equipment.  
The O. R. & N. and Oregon Short Line have added a buffet, smoking and library car to their Portland-Chicago through train, and a dining car service has been inaugurated. The train is equipped with the latest chair cars, day coaches and luxurious first-class and ordinary sleepers. Direct connection made at Granger with Union Pacific, and at Ogden with Rio Grande line, from all points in Oregon, Washington and Idaho to all Eastern cities. For information, rates, etc., call on any O. R. & N. agent, or address W. H. Hurlbut, General Passenger Agent, Portland.

The hard, white layer inside the shell of the coconut is not there in the freshly plucked fruit, except as a creamy film about a 16th of an inch thick, which has to be scraped off with a spoon. Sparkling liquid, in place of the acid "milk" known to English consumers, comprise the whole nut.

#### GOOD ACTING.

Farmer Carried Away by the Realism of the Scene.  
One of the leading lawyers of the northwest is William John Hahn of Minneapolis, for many years attorney-general of Minnesota, says the Philadelphia Post. In his younger days Mr. Hahn was as good an amateur actor as he is a lawyer, which is high praise. He was the leading man in a company headed by Mayor James Richardson, now of Connecticut, and "Mat" Stroup, now of Aberdeen, N. D.  
It was twenty years ago that this locally famous aggregation gave an English drama. Mr. Hahn played the part of an idle vagabond—the ne'er-do-well son of a 'squire, who had through evil associates been accused of a crime. The last act was a court scene in which the prisoner was convicted and sentenced to penal servitude for life. Mayor Richardson was the judge and Mr. Stroup was counsel for the defense. The house was crowded, and as was usual, the near-by country had sent in a fair delegation of farmers and their families. The lawyer made a stirring plea for mercy, which visibly excited the audience.  
"A good lad, your honor," he pleaded, "and honest, too; good to his parents and a friend of his neighbors, and—"  
A Glasgow town farmer, carried away by the realism of the scene, had risen.  
"Sure!" he called out, "and you don't want to forget 'Mat' Stroup, that 'Johnny' Hahn never charged a poor man a dollar and he never lost a case in his life. He ain't guilty no more than I am!"  
"Order in the court!" cried the judge, with admirable presence of mind, and while the farmer's friends restored peace sentence was pronounced and the curtain fell.

Spanish is a Charitable People.  
The Spanish are among the most charitable people on earth. Without a poor tax, Spanish communities of 50,000 self-supporters feed a popular population of 5,000 or more.

Death Pleased Them.  
Drummer—How was the "Uncle Tom's Cabin" show at the town hall last night?  
Landlord Pettiville Tavern—First rate! The audience was so pleased with little Eva's death that they endorsed her till she done it again.—San Francisco Examiner.

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 Prague, and the poet Jens Baggesen in Kiel.

Mormonism  
Is a blot upon our land—a symptom of governmental ill-health. The right laws would act upon it as Hostetter's Stomach Bitters does upon constipation, or dyspepsia. They would quickly restore healthy purity; and this is just what the Bitters does for the human constitution. It makes the stomach strong by curing indigestion and biliousness.

Instruction in the English language is now obligatory in Russian commercial schools.

#### DEAFNESS CANNOT BE CURED

By local applications, as they cannot reach the diseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure deafness, and that is by constitutional remedies. Deafness is caused by an inflamed condition of the mucous lining of the Eustachian Tube. When this tube gets inflamed you have a rumbling sound or imperfect hearing, and when it is entirely closed deafness is the result, and unless the inflammation can be taken out and this tube restored to its normal condition, hearing will be destroyed forever; nine cases out of ten are caused by catarrh, which is nothing but an inflamed condition of the mucous surfaces.

We will give One Hundred Dollars for any case of Deafness caused by catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. Send for circulars, free.  
J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O.  
Sold by Druggists, 75c.  
Hall's Family Pills are the best.

There are 1,135 miles of railway in Cuba, 551 miles of which are controlled by British companies.

TO CURE A COLD IN ONE DAY  
Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. E. W. Grove's signature is on each box. 25c.

New York may furnish its fire department with searchlights to aid in taking care of night fires.  
The Pleasantest, Most Powerful and Effective Nervinal Remedy for La Grippe, Catarrh, Rheumatism.  
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The Spanish are among the most charitable people on earth. Without a poor tax, Spanish communities of 50,000 self-supporters feed a popular population of 5,000 or more.

**BEST FOR THE BOWELS**  
If you haven't a regular, healthy movement of the bowels every day, you're sick, or will be. Keep your bowels open, and be well. Force, in the shape of violent physic or pill poison, is dangerous. The smoothest, easiest, most perfect way of keeping the bowels clear and clean is to take  
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**KEEP YOUR BLOOD CLEAN**  
THIS IS SHOWS FOR \$21.61. Have the Hurlbut's Profit—Save the Wholesome Blood. Take advantage of our lowest price. Others have advanced their price of Purifier Blood. But our contract with the manufacturers compels them to furnish us with blood, so we can sell them at a small profit at \$14.15, \$14.25 and \$14.75. YOU would be proud of either one of these purifier bottles. The picture gives you a fair idea of their elegance. Write for a list of our agents and for our terms. We will send you a box of Purifier Blood on arrival at your depot. The great local agents are everywhere. A Large Store takes less than a small one for best results. LARGEST STORE AT LOGOGE FREE. Write for free sample and booklet on health.

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**Hood's Sarsaparilla**  
Never Disappoints

Clerical Ordinance.  
Hobbs—I see by the papers that your friend Rev. Dr. Bang has joined the artillery of the church.  
Hobbs—What do you mean?  
"Why he's been made a canon of the cathedral."  
"H'm; I didn't know that he was such a big gun."—N. Y. Commercial Advertiser.

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.

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... MANUFACTURED BY ... CALIFORNIA FIG SYRUP CO. IF NOTE THE NAME.  
SOLE AGENCY  
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Steam Pumps  
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Pumping Plants of  
Any Capacity.  
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29 to 35 First Street, Portland, Or.  
Machinery of All Kinds.

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Is food for thought.  
PORTLAND DIRECTORY.  
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PORTLAND WIRE & IRON WORKS: WIRE and iron fencing; office railing, etc. 34 Alder.  
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JOHN POOLE, PORTLAND, OREGON, can give you the best bargains in general machinery, engines, boilers, tanks, pumps, pipes, belts and windmills. The new steel I X L windmill, sold by him, is unequalled.

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Always cheaper  
in the end than any seeds  
that only cost half as much.  
Tested, true to name, fresh and  
reliable. Always the best. Ask  
for Ferry's—No. 30 no others.  
Write for 100 Seed Annual.  
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Detroit, Mich.

Weak and Worn-Out People  
Can secure health and strength—can do it quickly by using  
Moore's Revealed Remedy  
It contains no dangerous drugs—it has a pleasant taste. It is a bottle at drugists.

DR. MARTEL'S BOOE,  
**Relief for Women**  
Best free, in plain, sealed envelope. Write today for this book, containing Pertinent Facts and Testimonials of Five Hundred Cures, always reliable and without an equal. Sold by druggists or sent by post. Treatise Free. Write us about your case. DR. BOSANKO, Philada., Pa.  
**GANGER Is Curable**  
Without the Use of Knife.  
Address DR. NEWKIRK, Mountain Home, Id.

**DR. GUNN'S IMPROVED PILLS**  
ONE FOR A DOSE. Cure Sore Headache and Dyspepsia, Remove Impurities and Purify the Blood, Aid Digestion and Prevent Biliousness. Do Not Grip or Sick. To convince you, we will mail sample free, or full box for 25c. DR. HERRA WILCOX CO., Philada., Pa. Sold by Druggists.

**SURE CURE FOR PILES**  
FROTHING Piles procure moisture and cause itching. This form, as well as Hemorrhoids or Protruding Piles are cured by Dr. Bosanko's Pile Cure, a Simple, Sure, and Painless Remedy. Write us about your case. DR. BOSANKO, Philada., Pa.

**YOUNG MEN!**  
For Gonorrhea and Gleet get Pate's Oily Specific. It is the ONLY medicine which will cure each and every case. No Cure, known or ever failed to cure, no matter how serious or of how long standing. Results from its use will astonish you. It is absolutely safe, prevents return, and can be taken without inconvenience and detention from business. PRICE \$5.00. For sale by all reliable druggists, or sent postpaid by express, plainly wrapped, on receipt of price. By  
PAINT CHEMICAL CO., Chicago, Ill.  
Circular sent on request.

**CURE YOURSELF!**  
Use Big 4 for unsanitary discharges, inflammation, irritation or ulcerations of mucous membrane, Pains, and not satisfaction in each case. Sold by Druggists, or sent in plain wrapper, express, prepaid, for \$1.00, or 1 bottle, 50c. Circular sent on request.  
N. P. N. U. No. 1-1900.

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T. M. ROBERTS' SUPPLY HOUSE, MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.