



THE ROOSEVELT BEARS

BY PAUL PIPER.

ILLUSTRATED BY V. FLOYD CAMPBELL.



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III. THE BEARS ON THE PULLMAN

As the train pulled out the bears sat down
On cushion seats of velvet brown.
They nodded to men and ladies, too,
And smiled and said, "How do you do?"
To a little girl who asked her Dad
If bears were good, for the books she had
Said that bears were cross and often bad.
"Don't you believe it," said TEDDY-G,
"When we reach New York you come with me,
And I'll buy you candy, ten pounds, or more,
The best they have in a Broadway store,
And picture books which say that we

And told the cook that he must do
The best he could with the food on hand,
For bears could eat to beat the band.

But the play at dinner was square and white
Compared with the fun they had that night.
"I won't sleep upstairs," said TEDDY-G,
"I want a window; I want to see
The moon go round and the trains go by
And the sun get up in the morning sky."
But Bill said, "Hush! Put in your head;
The folks in the car have gone to bed."
But TEDDY-G didn't scare a bit;
He got out of bed and said he'd sit
Up all night like owl or cat.
Before he'd sleep on a shelf like that.
He'd help the porter to do the chores,
To answer calls and stop the snores,
To shine the shoes and tickets take,
And see that sleepers didn't wake.
TEDDY-G had fun that night;



"Did a two-step dance and a new cake walk."

Are as fond of children as bears can be."
Then TEDDY-G to prove his talk,
Did a two-step dance and a new cake-walk,
And a Dixie clog and the Highland fling.
He touched the bells to hear them ring,
And kicked the lamps with both his feet
When the conductor asked him to take his seat.

The bears looked out on fields and hills,
On stores and churches and homes and mills.
And it made them laugh from head to toe
To see the world go flying so.
Trees and posts went sliding by;
They couldn't count; they didn't try.
They asked the porter (his name was Bill)
If the land were moving and if they were still.
And Bill said, "Yes, I know it's true,
The earth turns round in a day or two,
But we'll beat the earth two hours at least.
In this railroad ride from West to East."

A colored man all dressed in white,
With a soldier cap, and buttons bright,
Marched down the aisle like a jolly tar;
Calling, "Dinner ready in the dining-car."



The bears stepped forward and took their seats
And called for coffee and cheese and sweets,
And peach ice cream and Betty brown,
When the waiter said, his face a frown:
"Your bill-of-fare is upside down;
Begin with soup and a half-shell clam,
Then fish, then mutton with English jam."
"You go to grass," said TEDDY-B,
"I want my dinner, enough for three;
Make it upside down or right-side-up;
But I don't want soup served in a cup;
Or clams on stones or a minnow fish;
Bring soup in bowls and a good large dish
Of salmon-trout and cod and bass
And a leg of mutton and a two-quart glass
Of your richest cream with a loaf of bread
And a bunch of celery and a lettuce head.
We're bears, not mice; now take a hint.
While these you get, I'll read your print."
"The same for me," said TEDDY-G;
"Get a man to help, get two or three;
We're about as hungry as bears can be;
Make my meat rare; I want enough;
Don't stop to talk; bring on the stuff."
The waiters were scared from black to blue;
They upset the dishes and spilled the stew.

He hid the shoes and put out the light,
And made the porter keep out of sight,
And saw the cook and got a bite
Of ham and cheese and a cup of tea.
He woke the folks at half-past three
Calling, "Breakfast ready; get up and see."
He borrowed a banjo from a colored lad
And rattled off "Everybody Works But Dad,"
And "Doodle Boy" and "Apple Tree,"
And "What the Brass Band Played," and "Tammany,"
And "Katie Dear" and "My Irish Molly O,"
And "Put Me Off at Buffalo."
It was half-past four the porter said
When TEDDY-B made him go to bed.
The bears didn't wake for a day or more;
They missed some meals, about three or four,
When TEDDY-G tossed Bill a dime
And asked him to bring on dinner-time.
"I am sorry, gents," said porter Bill,

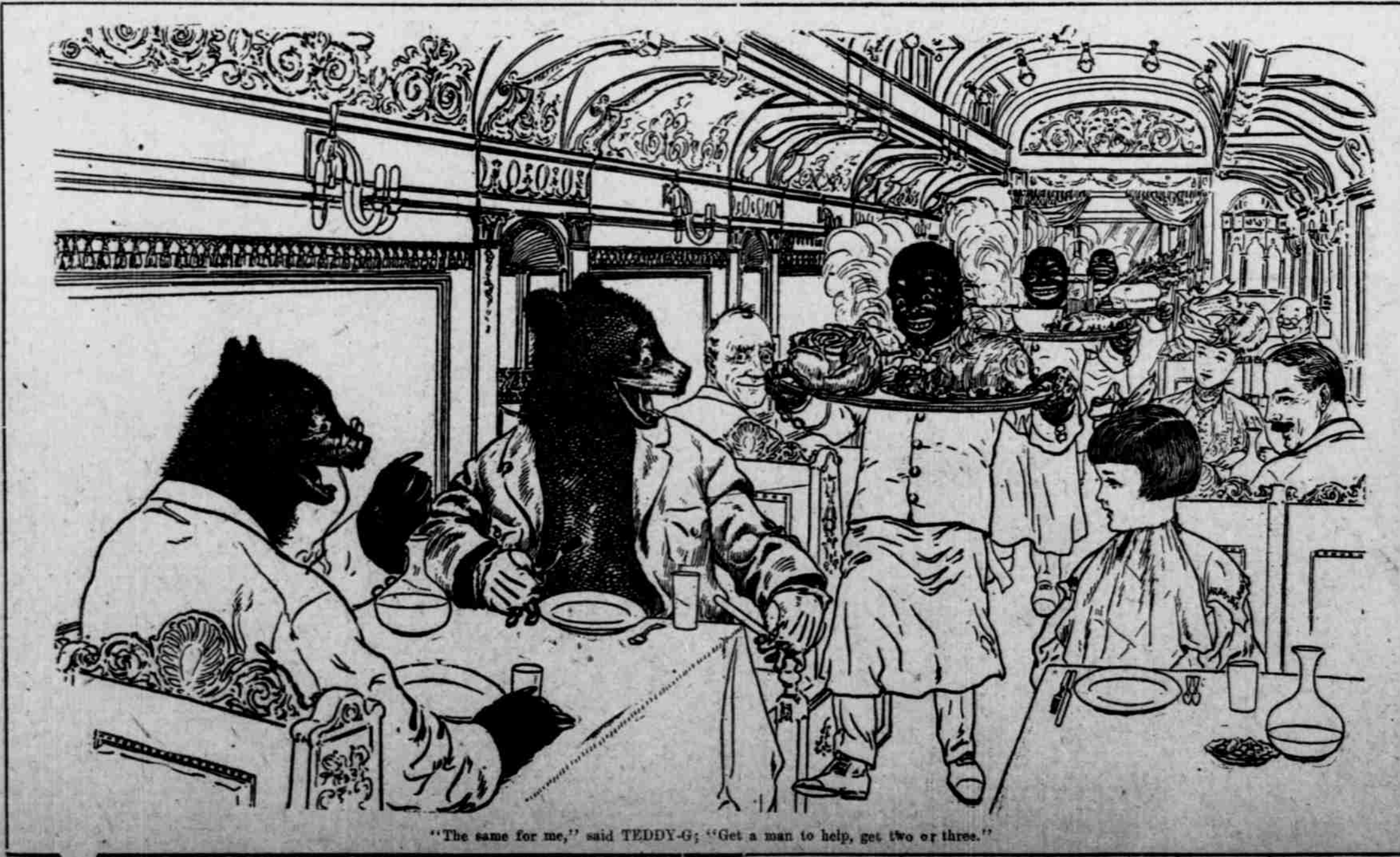


"When TEDDY-B made him go to bed."

"But lunch is over and you fellows will
Have to wait right here six hours at least
Before you can have another feast."
But that was more than the bears could stand;
TEDDY-G stood up and reached his hand
And caught a rope he saw running through
From end to end; for he thought he'd do
A dinner call; when the whistle blew
And brakes went on and train men flew,
And heads went out on sides to view
The trouble in front or under or back,
For all were sure they were off the track.
The conductor came forward a flag in hand
And said, "This is more than I can stand."
But TEDDY-G said, "Boo! Bah! Boo!
Get away from here you fellows, you;
I rang the bell for an Irish stew."
But the conductor said, "Don't Boo! at me;
I run this train; I'll let you see;
The walking's good and you can go
From here to Chicago by heel and toe."
And he put the two bears off the train
On a Kansas farm in a shower of rain.



(Continued Next Sunday.)



"The same for me," said TEDDY-G; "Get a man to help, get two or three."