



THE ROOSEVELT BEARS ABROAD

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NUMBER XII

THE BEARS IN RUSSIA

The Teddy Bears learned a thing or two
About the way the Russians do
For about ten o'clock the following day
At a railway station along the way
Their clothes were searched, and boots and caps,
Umbrellas, overcoats and traps;
By whiskered men who used them rough
And talked in language loud and gruff.
What the search was for, they didn't know;
Or if mistaken for foreign foe;
And when TEDDY-G gave a man a blow
For prodding him behind the ear
With the sharpest end of a soldier's spear
It opened battle then and there
Between officer and Teddy Bear.
But the Roosevelt Bears knew how to box
And TEDDY-G worked off some knocks,
The shoulder kind, the twisty stuff,
Till the Russian cried he had enough.
But in Russia, France or anywhere,
For me or you, or for Teddy Bear,



To please some upstart ruler small.
These things made TEDDY-G so cross
He left the house and walked across
A bridge or two and a public square
To find the famous Russian bear,
"To teach him," he said, "his A. B. C.
'And how to govern fair and free."

He taught that bear enough that day
To make his hair turn red or gray;
The way to spell, the Roosevelt plan,
O-x for ox, and a-n for an,
"Which easy way to spell," said he,
"The Russians need much more than we."
He taught him figures; how to divide
With folks in need on every side;
And government, the way to plan
Was to take some lessons from Japan;
"And in geography, on a world so small,"
Said TEDDY-G, "Don't take it all;
But what you have just hold and rule,
And build for every child a school."
The Russian bear did the best he could
And said he thought he understood;
But TEDDY-G made him promise true
That he'd read the life of Roosevelt through,
And then take up when that was done
The history of George Washington.

One afternoon at half-past five
They took the Czar for a little drive
To show him the city about which he said
He had often in his castle read.
TEDDY-B said he would driver be



This famous city was a blaze of light;
From streets of granite laid in mire
To the top of every golden spire,
Streams of light shone everywhere
In honor of the Roosevelt Bears.
And Russian soldiers all in line
Made the city squares look very fine,
As they were driven in a carriage grand.
Led by a famous Russian band,
To a fine hotel on the Palace Quay,
Where they were told that all was free.
Their rooms and board and service best,
And lounging parlors in which to rest.
And carriages at their command,
And music from the Czar's own band,
And all their own, not a cent to pay,
As many days as they chose to stay.

They read the lives of Peter the Great
And of his successors up to date;
As wicked a bunch as ever made
The countries of the world afraid.
They learned that hundred thousands died
In building the streets on every side,
From damp and cold on this marshy site,
Because King Peter's word was might.
They read how Catharine's foes were slain
To clear the way for her to reign,
And how she made men live like swine
That she herself might in glory shine.
And other history stern and grim
Of people killed for royal whim,
And thousands banished to regions cold,
Children in arms and peasants old,
For trifling cause, or none at all,



To fight for peace isn't worth a dime;
It doubles trouble every time;
Or the stronger wins and peace is made
Because the weaker is afraid.
Things move more happily along
If we apologize when in the wrong.

But that row that day had gone too far;
The Bears were ordered off the car
And men were called, like soldiers dressed,
With chains and cuffs to make arrest.
The Bears regretted the row they'd made
And tried the officers to persuade
That no harm was meant but all was fun
As they had no spear or sword or gun.
But to hit a soldier is a serious crime
Which must not be done at any time;
And two sets of handcuffs did the trick
And the Teddy Bears were landed quick
In a Russian jail with a window each
Through which to coax or scold or teach
The noisy crowd which stood below
Laughing and joking at the show.
But in that crowd was a Yankee tar
Whose cruiser captain knew the Czar,
And he took a message from TEDDY-B
Which in half an hour got both Bears free.
And a special train on which to ride,
With dining car and Russian guide,
And friendly help on every side,
And stations passed along the way
Displaying the flag of the U. S. A.

When they reached St. Petersburg that night



And charge by the hour and collect the fee,
While TEDDY-G was to sit behind
The famous Russian Czar to mind.
The streets were crowded and windows high
To see the Bears go driving by
And to cheer the Czar and throw bouquets,
The kind which start a Russian blaze.
But TEDDY-G with arm and paw
Knocked off with ease each bomb he saw,
And did his part so brave and well
In handling safely every shell,
That he won a medal with printing filled,
"He saved a king from getting killed."

They left this city of historic strife
To learn a little of Russian life;
To see the farms of grain and grass
And study the ways of the peasant class.
They spent a day with a man whose name
Is known to literature and to fame,
And talked with him, and tried his clothes,
And hoed his corn, a dozen rows,
And heard him explain his patent trick;
How to make wrong right and do it quick.

"Next week we'll go," said TEDDY-B,
"To Switzerland her hills to see,
And we'll climb each one and never stop
Till we stand on the very top,
And Colorado's mountains cheer,
Our brother bears and mountain deer,
And every rock and creek and tree,
And all our friends across the sea."
(Continued next Sunday.)