

**How Edison Read the "Count of Monte Cristo"**

(New York Times.)  
The play of Thomas A. Edison's mind is as wonderful as the characteristic way in which he does his reading. One evening he happened to be unusually engrossed with some "problem," and was nervously pacing up and down his library like a caged lion. To divert his thoughts his wife came in and picked up the first book she saw. It happened to be "The Count of Monte Cristo."  
"Have you ever read this story?" said Mrs. Edison to her husband.  
He stopped and looked at the title. "No, I never have. Is it good?"  
Mrs. Edison assured him that it was. "All right, I guess I'll read it now," and within two minutes the "problem," whatever it was, had been forgotten, and he was absorbed in Dumas' great story. As he finished the book he noticed the light of day peeping in, and on looking at his watch found it was 8 o'clock in the morning.  
No sooner had he laid down the book than the forgotten "problem" jumped into his mind, and, putting on his hat, he went to his laboratory and worked unceasingly, without food or sleep, for thirty-six hours.

**Uncle Sam's Rent Bill**

Despite the large number of magnificent public buildings in Washington, says the New York World, the United States Government is paying \$210,000 a year in rentals for property necessary to its uses. This represents the interest at 4 per cent on a capital of \$5,250,000.

This argument is being used to have Congress dispense with the renting of private buildings for its uses and to have it erect the necessary structures. The big skyscraper now being erected opposite the War Department is to be rented by the Government for the use of the Navy and War Departments. The building is being erected by General Anson Mills.

The rentals paid by the Government are in many cases far in excess of that which would be paid by private firms or corporations. The Department of Justice now occupies the famous Lowry mansion and a building that was a big apartment hotel, for which it pays \$16,500 a year rental, in addition to three other buildings, bringing the total to \$23,500.

The rents paid by the various Government departments are: State, \$600; War, \$21,900; Navy, \$5,100; Treasury, \$15,240; Interior, \$81,580; Postoffice, \$19,800; Agriculture, \$11,320; and miscellaneous, \$28,724.

Writing in the London Speaker, Mr. G. Shaw Lefevre presents figures showing a striking increase of pauperism in England during the past two years. In 1909 there was one pauper in every forty-two of population, in 1901 one in forty, and last November one in thirty-eight, approximately. Last year the average number of vagrants received daily in the workhouse increased by 29 per cent., and as compared with ten years ago by 100 per cent. It is hard to resist Mr. Lefevre's conclusion that this sudden increase in pauperism is a result of the war. War taxes have been a drain on capital, and hence on wages, and now that the stimulus lent by the war to certain lines of industry has ceased, employment has fallen off. The waste of the war has eaten into the capital employed in the normal and productive industries of the country, and the poorest of the working classes suffer most. Unfortunately, there is a still darker side of the picture, since, besides the growth of pauperism and vagrancy, there has also been, as Mr. Lefevre shows, a marked increase in vagrancy and crime.



Don't you think Tom is close? "Well, he did seem awfully close to me on the sofa last night."



Mrs. Monk—I think I'll stop taking in any more washing.  
Mr. Monk—I wish it was all taken in.



"Did you see papa today about our engagement?"  
"Yes, I saw him at his office."  
"Were you there long?"  
"Oh! no, I came out almost as soon as I went in."



"I lent Ned \$10 the other day, and it's the last he'll ever get out of me."  
"It was the finishing touch, eh?"



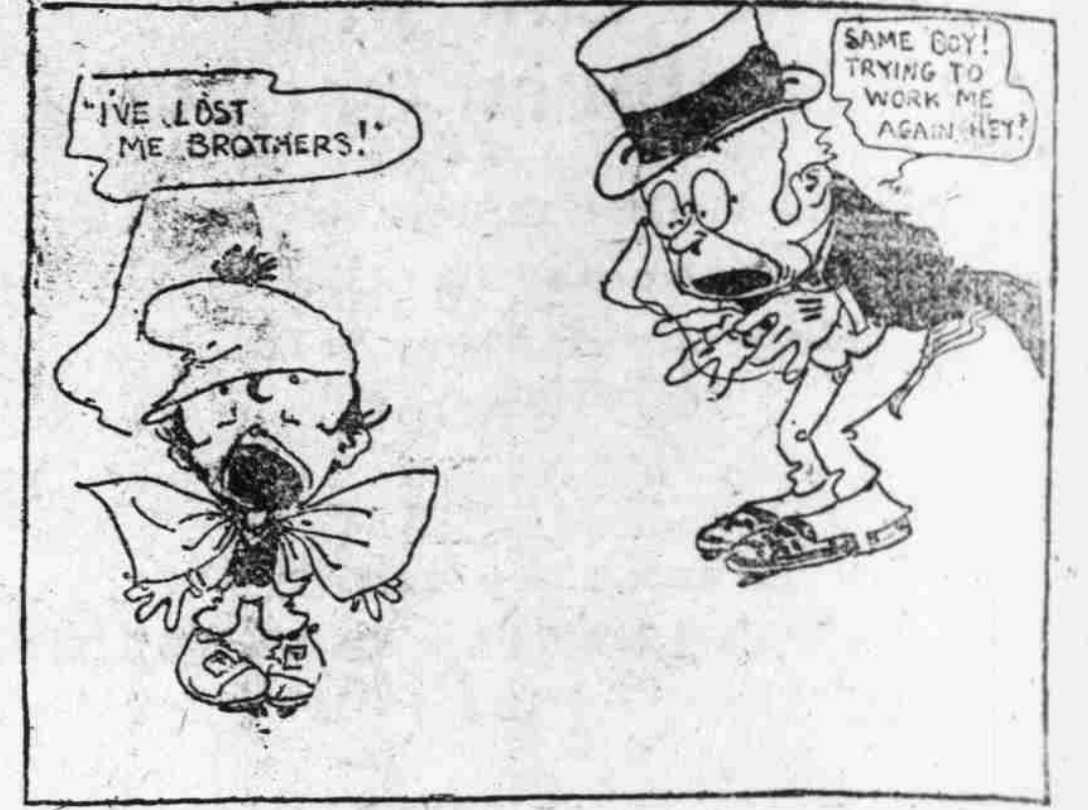
Villem Stenmet

"I wonder who first started the theory that all the perdition we are to experience is inside us?"

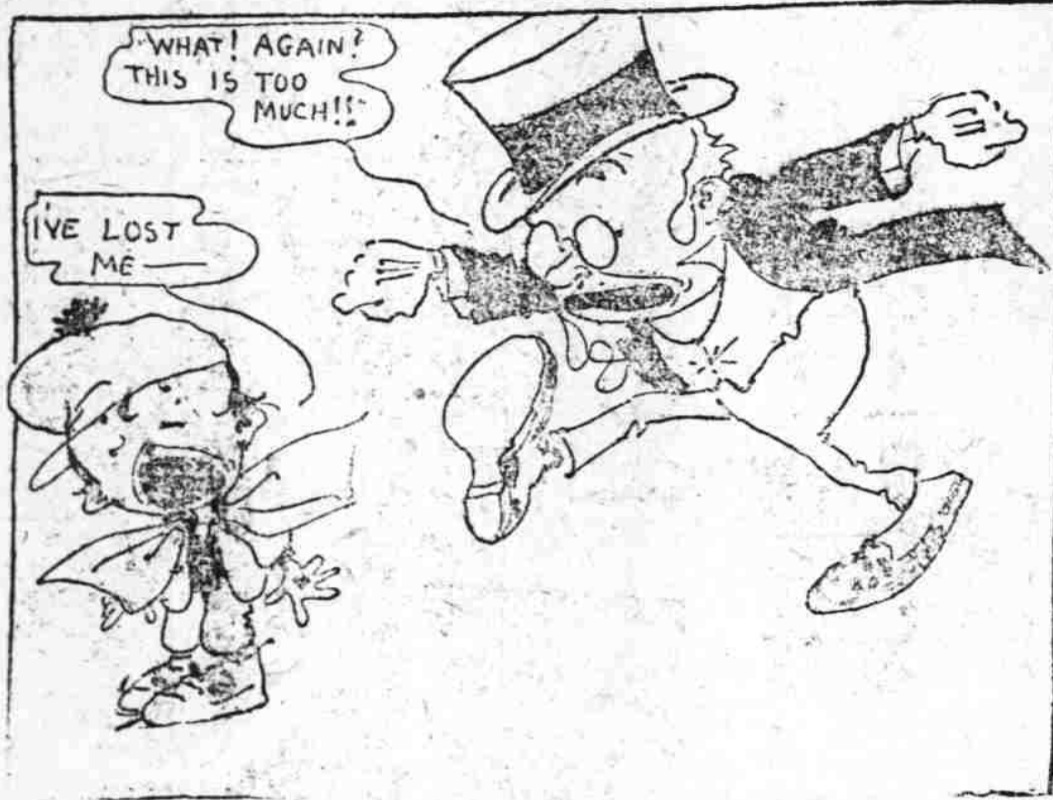
**TWEEDLEDUM, TWEEDLEDEE AND OTHER TRIPLET**  
They Get Into Trouble.



Mr. Goodthing meets poor Tweedledum.



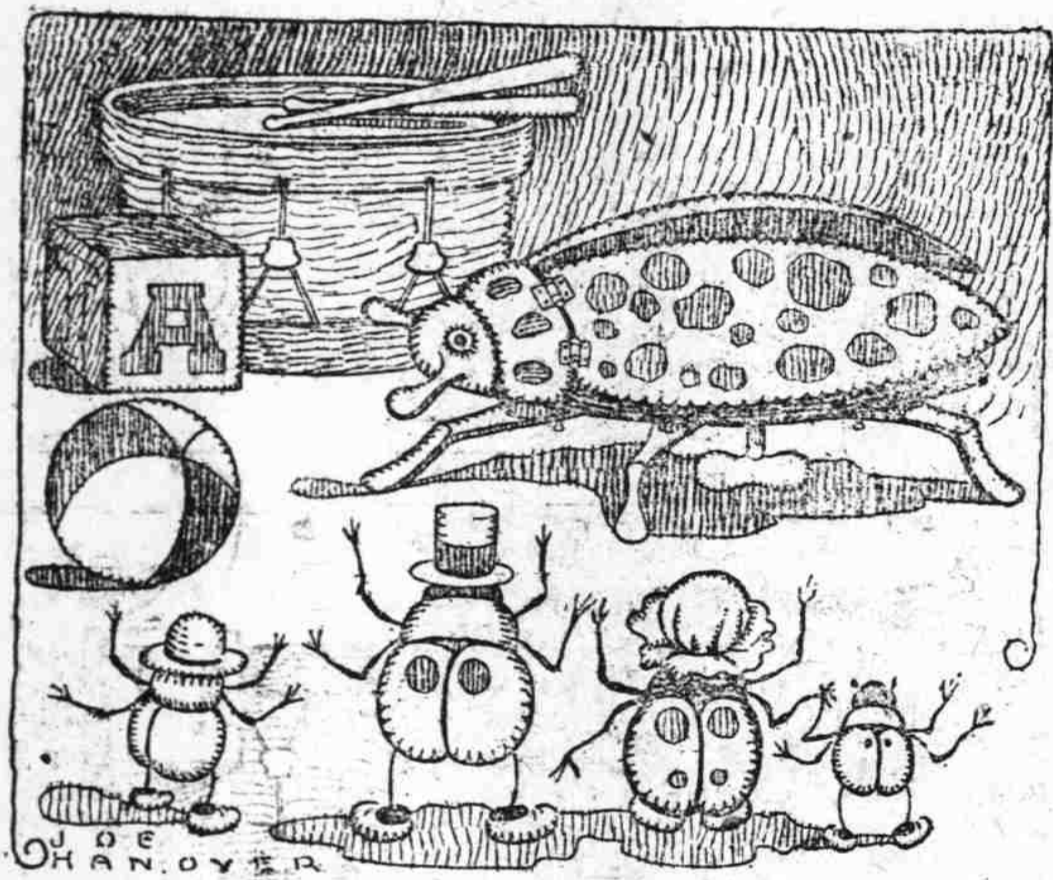
And then Tweedledum, and—



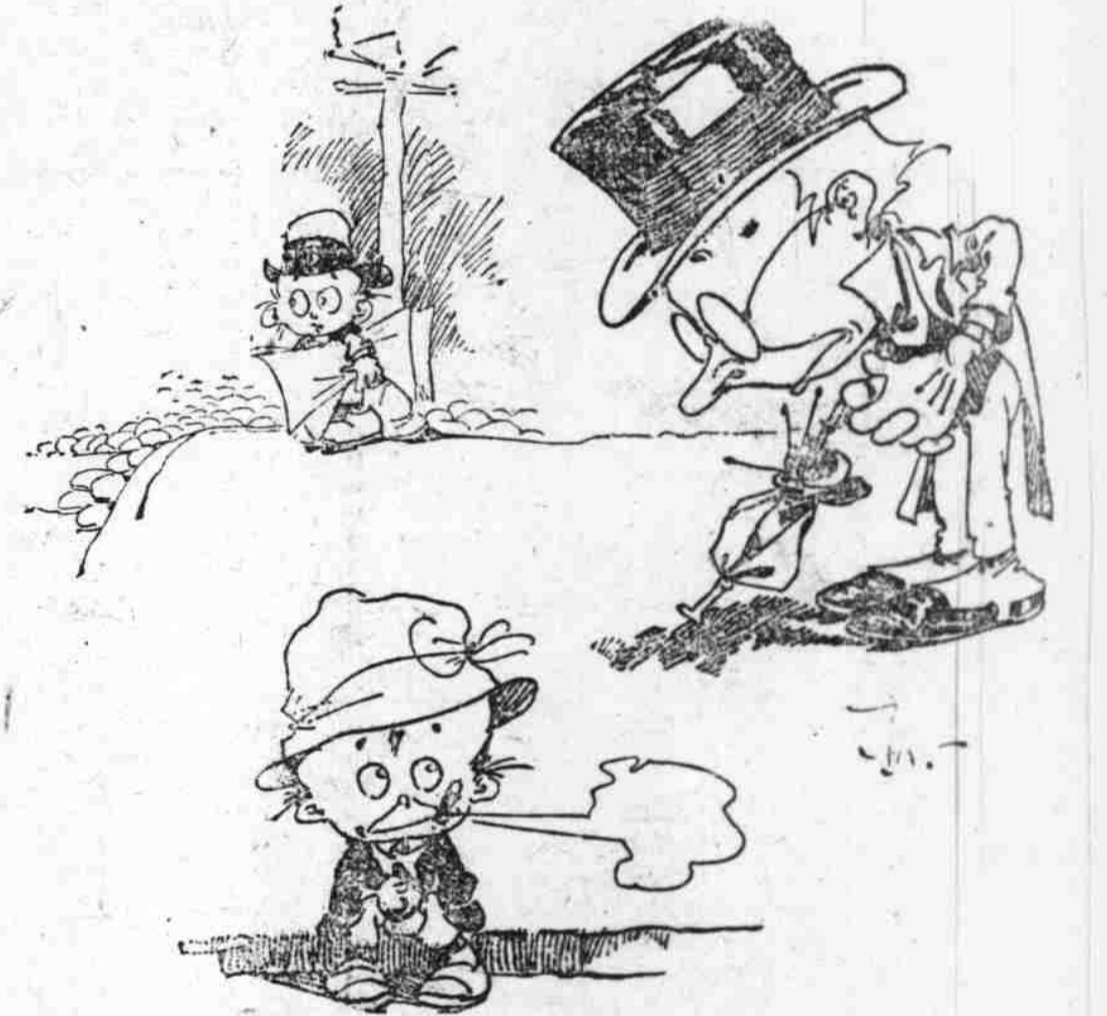
a few blocks further he encounters the Other Triplet



With this terrible result.



Papa Bug-Gracious! What a horri ble monster: it must be one of our prehistoric ancestors.



Rev. Goodby—I'd like to see you in my Sabbath class—  
Mickey—Yep, I'd like to see meself!



Mr. Crusty (looking over the New Year's bills)—This great extravagance requires a check, madam.  
Mr. Crustle—Then make the check for \$500, dearie.



"I read in the paper this morning about a man who bought a wife for \$5.  
"Another case of a man with more money than brains."



Tommy—Say, pop, what's the difference between a pessimist and an optimist?  
His Pop—One's married and the other is single.



"How many ways can you serve meat?"  
"Three, mum."  
"What are they?"  
"Zaw done, rare and raw."