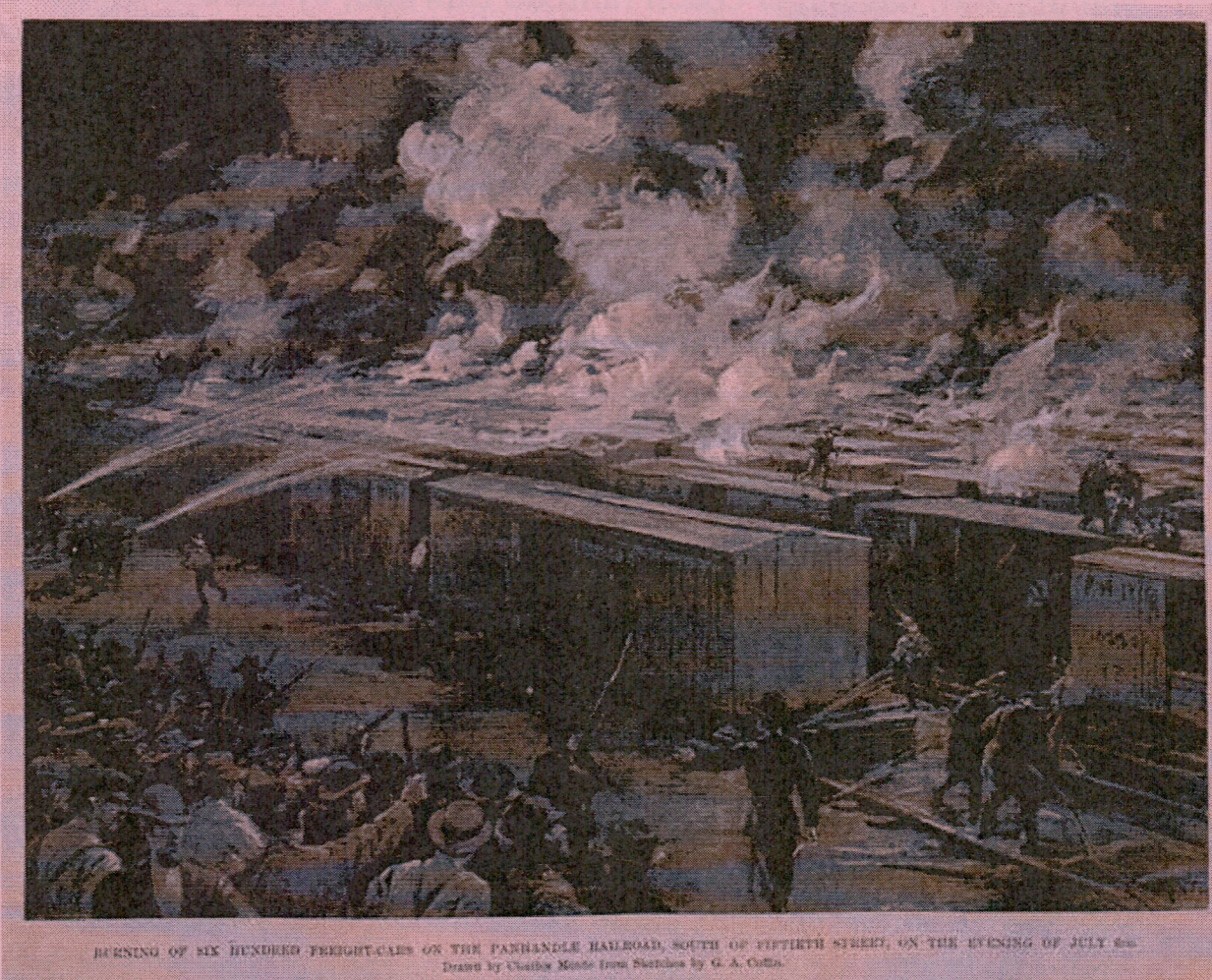


The Pullman Strike

In 1867 George Pullman founded the Pullman Palace Car Company to manufacture passenger coach railroad cars and, by the end of the century, he had monopolized the industry. Company headquarters moved to the outskirts of Chicago in 1880, where Pullman built a large factory and a company town with his name. By the 1890s, 6,000 of his 14,000 nationwide employees were based in Pullman, Illinois. Pullman was initially hailed as a forward-thinking industrialist, who provided a high quality of life for his workers. But, when the national economy took a downturn in 1893, the company laid off thousands of employees and cut wages. Pullman would not negotiate with the workers, who then went on strike in May 1894. The American Railway Union (ARU) threw its support behind the Pullman strikers by initiating a national boycott of the Pullman Company. ARU members refused to work on any train carrying a Pullman car, crippling railway traffic across the country. The federal government, under President Grover Cleveland, intervened in the crisis, first, by requesting a court injunction forbidding the boycott and, then, by sending soldiers to Chicago and elsewhere to enforce the injunction. The ARU's leader, Eugene V. Debs, was arrested and imprisoned for promoting the boycott. By mid-July, both the strike and the union had been broken, but not without considerable violence. Pullman himself came under widespread criticism for underpaying his workers and refusing to negotiate. The documents that follow include representations of and responses to Pullman, Debs, and the strikers.

"Burning of Six Hundred Freight-Cars on the Panhandle Railroad, South of Fiftieth Street, on the Evening of July 6th"

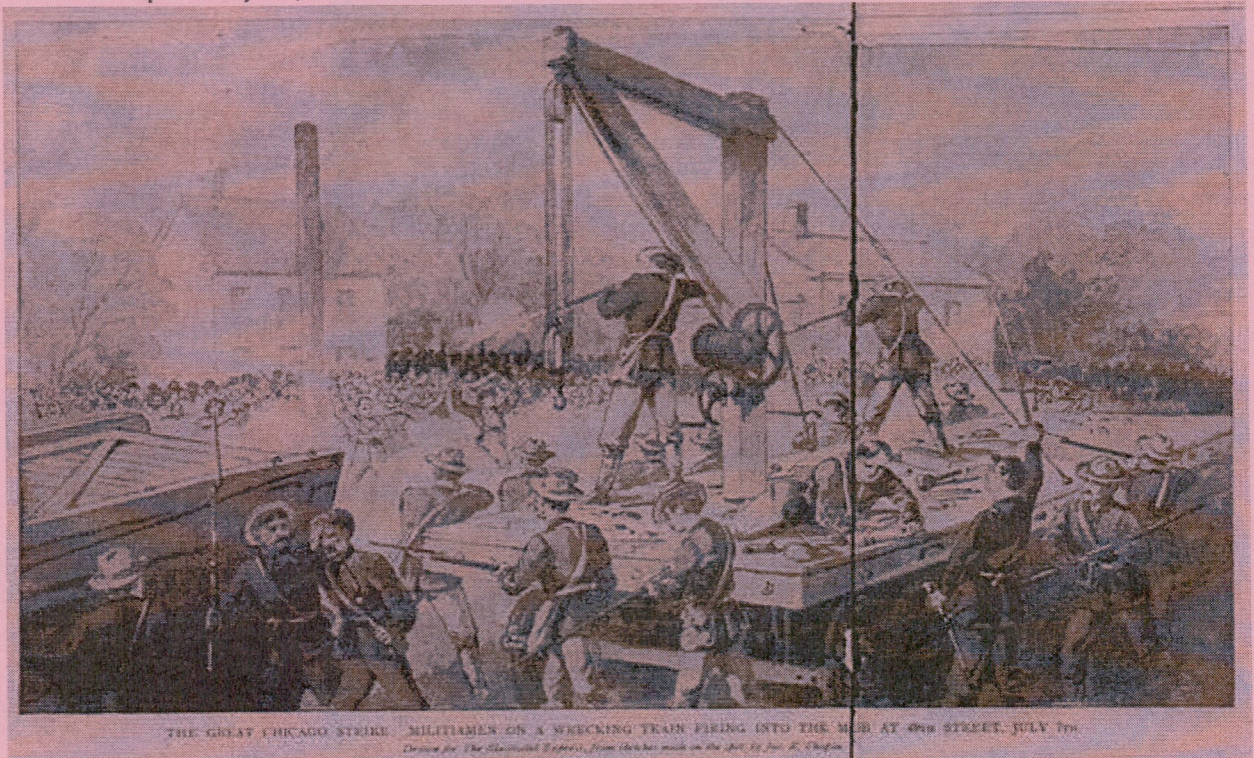
G. A. Coffin, Charles Mente. From *Harper's Weekly*, July 21, 1894.



This image depicts the destruction of Pullman cars in response to industrialist, George Pullman, laying off workers and slashing wages during an economic downturn.

“The Great Chicago Strike: Militiamen on a Wrecking Train Firing into the Mob at 49th Street”

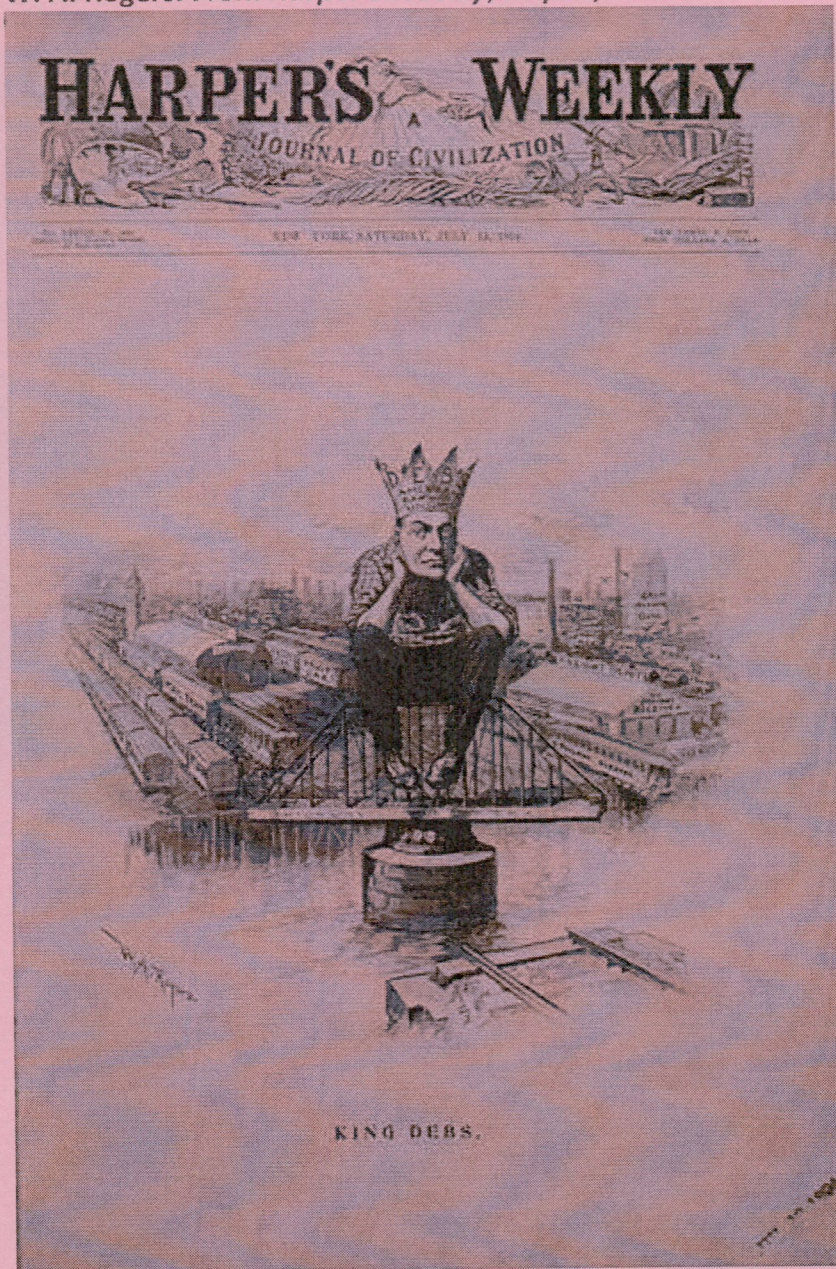
Jon. R. Chapin. July 15, 1894.



This image depicts militiamen firing into a crowd of striking Pullman factory workers during the Pullman Strike.

"King Debs"

W. A. Rogers. From *Harper's Weekly*, July 14, 1894.



This image, a response to the Pullman Strike, depicts labor leader Eugene V. Debs perched atop a railroad bridge.

"Chicago Herald Illustration"

November 4, 1895.



Another "banquet" attended only by employees of Mr. Pullman. This cartoon is a response to industrialist, George Pullman, laying off workers and slashing wages during an economic downturn.