

The Pullman Strike



GEORGE PULLMAN TRIED TO SOLVE HIS LABOR PROBLEMS BY BUILDING A COMPANY TOWN OUTSIDE CHICAGO THAT HE NAMED AFTER HIMSELF. HE CHARGED HIGH RENTS AND CONTROLLED EVERY ASPECT OF HIS WORKERS' LIVES. HE CALLED THEM "MY CHILDREN." IT WAS A VERSION OF THE INDIAN RESERVATION SYSTEM. ON MAY 11, 1894, CHICAGO WORKERS OF THE *PULLMAN PALACE CAR COMPANY* STRUCK TO PROTEST WAGE CUTS AND THE FIRING OF UNION REPRESENTATIVES.



MR. PULLMAN, MR. PULLMAN!
THE AMERICAN RAILWAY UNION
HAS ENDORSED A BOYCOTT OF
ALL TRAINS PULLING YOUR
PALACE CARS!

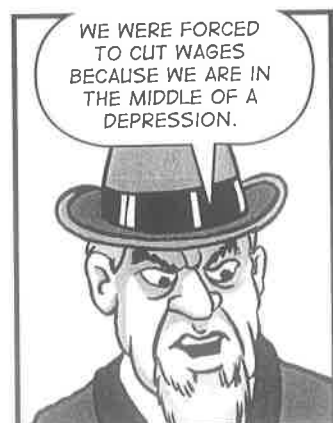


THAT'S NEARLY EVERY
PASSENGER TRAIN IN THE
COUNTRY. THIS COULD TURN INTO
A NATIONWIDE STRIKE. IS IT TIME
TO CONSIDER ARBITRATION, SIR?



HOGWASH!
NO LABOR UNION
WILL DICTATE
TO ME!

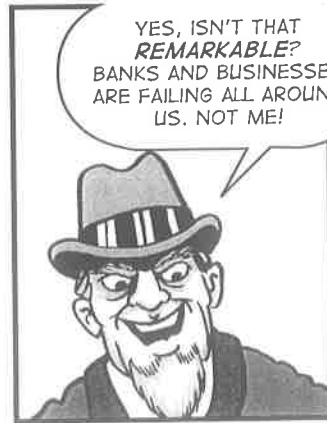
BUT HOW DO
YOU DEFEND
CUTTING WAGES
25 PERCENT?



WE WERE FORCED
TO CUT WAGES
BECAUSE WE ARE IN
THE MIDDLE OF A
DEPRESSION.



BUT SIR, YOU'VE
INCREASED DIVIDEND
PAYMENTS TO
SHAREHOLDERS!



YES, ISN'T THAT
REMARKABLE?
BANKS AND BUSINESSES
ARE FAILING ALL AROUND
US. NOT ME!



AND NOW
YOU'VE GOT
RESERVES OF
MORE THAN
\$2 MILLION.

YES, AND NO
LABOR UNION
WILL TELL ME
HOW TO
SPEND IT!

BOYS, HERE'S AN ITEM. I'M
TAKING MRS. PULLMAN TO
OUR HOME ON THE JERSEY
SHORE UNTIL THIS NASTY
BUSINESS BLOWS OVER.

MISSIE,
THESE LILIES ARE
WILTING. FETCH ME
NEW ONES. **NOW!**

**Dictator Debs
Orders Strike**

EUGENE DEBS!
THAT HORRIBLE
MAN! HE
BELONGS
IN JAIL!

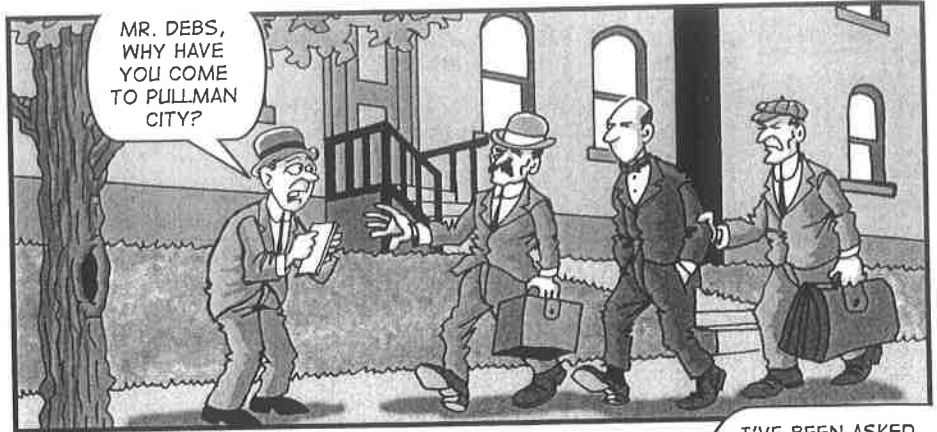
EUGENE VICTOR DEBS WAS THE YOUNG LEADER OF THE AMERICAN RAILWAY UNION (A.R.U.).



THE SON OF SHOPKEEPERS, HE GREW UP IN TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA. HE HAD ALREADY WORKED ON THE RAILROAD FOR FOUR YEARS WHEN, AT AGE 19, HE QUIT AFTER A FRIEND FELL UNDER A LOCOMOTIVE AND DIED. LATER, HE RETURNED AS A BILLING CLERK.

DURING THE DEPRESSION AND PANIC OF 1893, DEBS AND A SMALL GROUP FORMED THE A.R.U. TO UNITE ALL RAILROAD WORKERS.

IN THE SPRING OF 1894, PULLMAN WORKERS ASKED DEBS AND THE A.R.U. FOR HELP.



PULLMAN IS AN ULCER. HE OWNS EVERYTHING - THE HOUSES, THE SCHOOLS, EVEN THE CHURCHES! HE BUYS NATURAL GAS AT 75 CENTS A THOUSAND FEET AND TRIPLES THE PRICE TO US. HE BUYS WATER AT EIGHT CENTS A THOUSAND GALLONS AND SELLS IT TO US FOR \$40!

BROTHER DEBS, THIS WINTER OUR CHILDREN HAD NO BOOKS FOR SCHOOL, NO SHOES OR COATS.

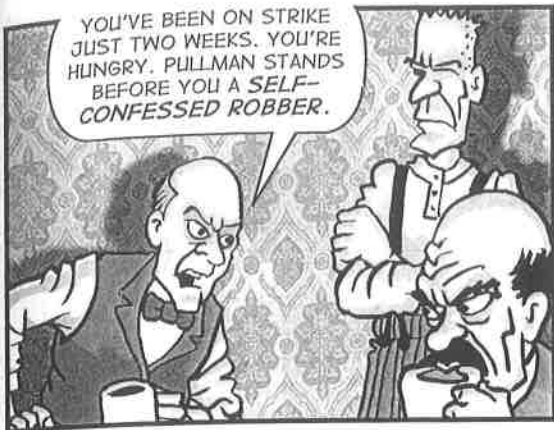
SOMETIMES WE HAD NOTHING TO EAT.



LOOK AT MY PAYCHECK! I WORKED TEN HOURS A DAY FOR TWELVE DAYS, AND I'VE EARNED \$9.12. BUT NINE BUCKS WENT TO PULLMAN! I CLEARED TWELVE CENTS!

WE WON'T STARVE FOR PULLMAN ANY LONGER!





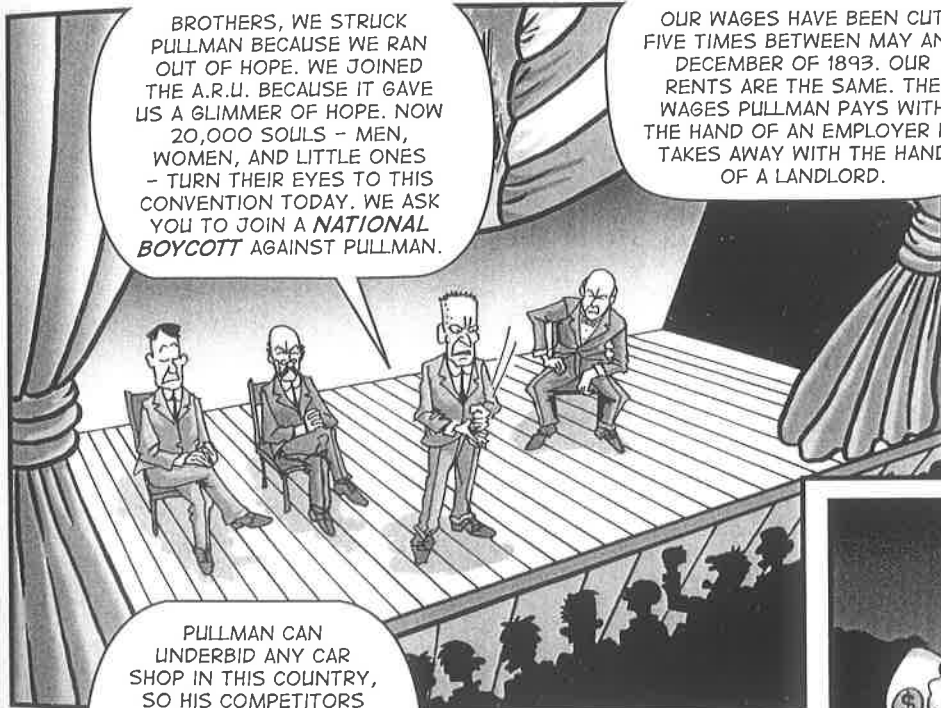
YOU'VE BEEN ON STRIKE JUST TWO WEEKS. YOU'RE HUNGRY. PULLMAN STANDS BEFORE YOU A SELF-CONFESSED ROBBER.



COME TO OUR CONVENTION AND MAKE YOUR APPEAL. THE UNION WILL SUPPORT YOU, BUT WE MUST BE CAUTIOUS. CAPITAL AND GOVERNMENT ARE POWERFUL ENEMIES.

THE AMERICAN RAILWAY UNION HELD ITS FIRST NATIONAL CONVENTION JUNE 2, 1894, IN CHICAGO.

ON THE 15TH THE PULLMAN STRIKERS ADDRESSED THE HALL.

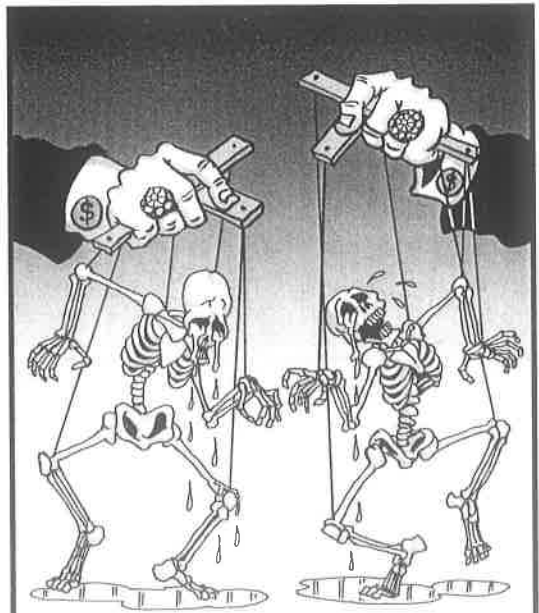


BROTHERS, WE STRUCK PULLMAN BECAUSE WE RAN OUT OF HOPE. WE JOINED THE A.R.U. BECAUSE IT GAVE US A GLIMMER OF HOPE. NOW 20,000 SOULS - MEN, WOMEN, AND LITTLE ONES - TURN THEIR EYES TO THIS CONVENTION TODAY. WE ASK YOU TO JOIN A NATIONAL BOYCOTT AGAINST PULLMAN.

OUR WAGES HAVE BEEN CUT FIVE TIMES BETWEEN MAY AND DECEMBER OF 1893. OUR RENTS ARE THE SAME. THE WAGES PULLMAN PAYS WITH THE HAND OF AN EMPLOYER HE TAKES AWAY WITH THE HAND OF A LANDLORD.



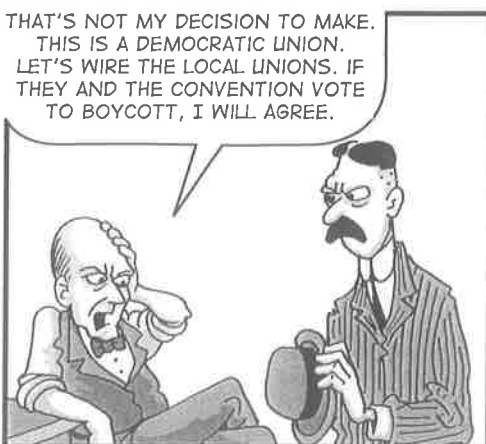
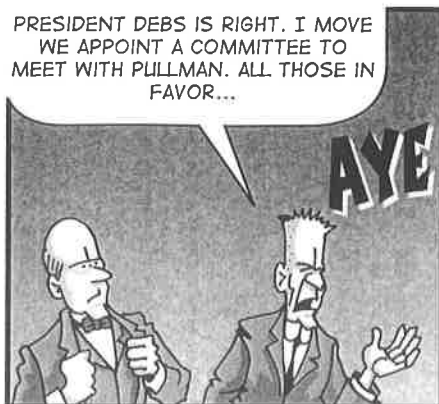
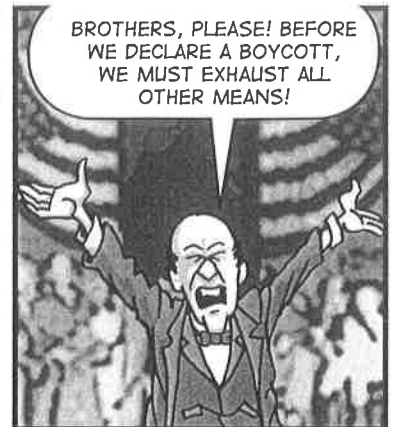
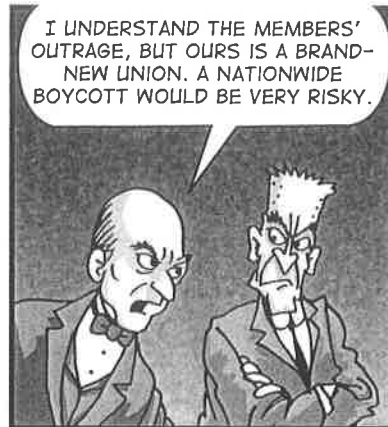
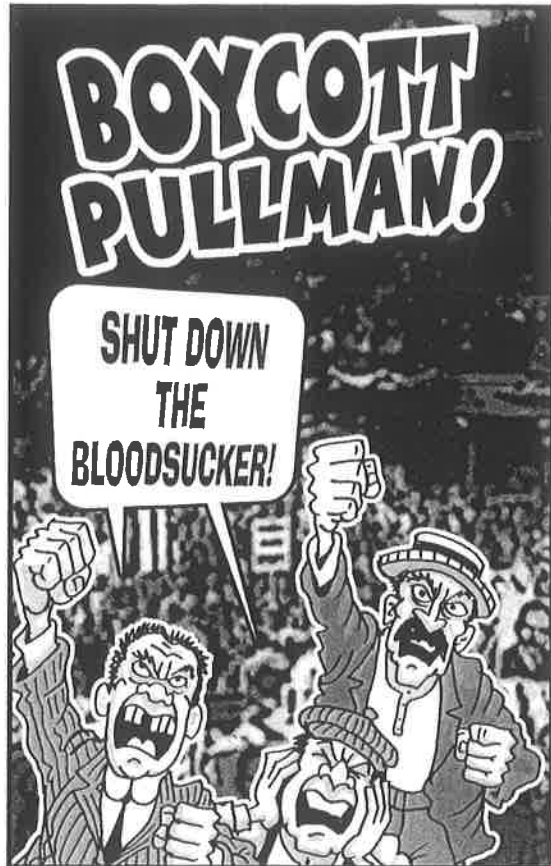
PULLMAN CAN UNDERBID ANY CAR SHOP IN THIS COUNTRY, SO HIS COMPETITORS MUST REDUCE THEIR WAGES. THIS GIVES HIM THE EXCUSE TO REDUCE OUR WAGES STILL FURTHER, AND HIS RIVALS IN TURN MUST SCALE DOWN. AND THUS...



...THE MERRY WAR - THE DANCE OF SKELETONS BATHED IN HUMAN TEARS - GOES ON.

ZINNFORMATION

A CENTURY LATER THIS WOULD BE CALLED THE RACE TO THE BOTTOM. IT WOULD ALSO BECOME THE BUSINESS MODEL FOR WAL-MART.



THE LOCAL UNIONS GAVE THE CONVENTION FINAL AUTHORITY. IT VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO BOYCOTT ALL PULLMAN CARS NATIONWIDE AS OF JUNE 26. WITHIN DAYS, ALL 24 RAIL LINES LEADING OUT OF CHICAGO WERE SHUT DOWN.

DICTATOR DEBS ORDERS NATION'S RAILS SHUT DOWN

Continuing Lawlessness Stalks Nation As Debs Orders Rail Anarchy

THE CORPORATE PRESS CALLED IT THE **DEBS REBELLION**, DEPICTING HIM AS **DICTATOR DEBS** OR **KING DEBS**.

HARPER'S WEEKLY

A JOURNAL OF CIVILIZATION

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, JULY 11, 1914

TEN CENTS A COPY
FOUR DOLLARS A YEAR

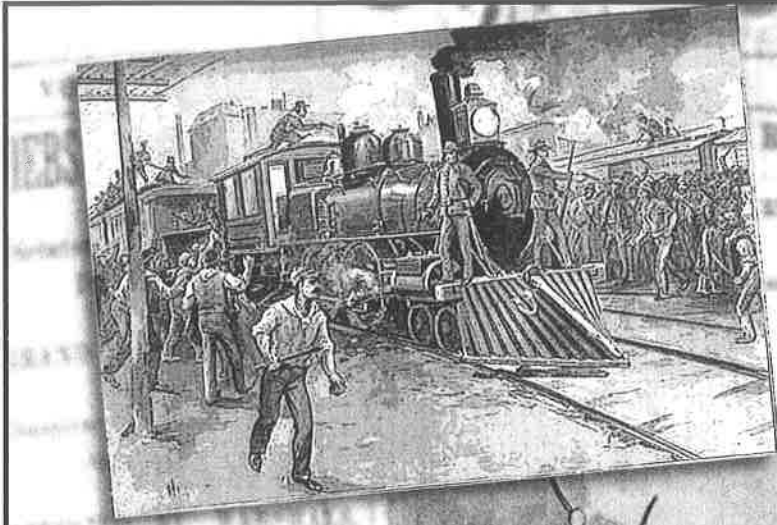
MOBS BENT ON RUIN.
Debs' Strikers Begin a Work of Destruction.
WRECK ON ROCK ISLAND.
Switch Thrown Open and a Train Derailed.
DIAMOND SPECIAL DITCHED.
Men Who Attempt to Work Are Terrorized and Beaten.
DICTATOR AFTER THE MANAGERS.

Continual and menacing lawlessness marked the progress yesterday of Dictator Debs and those who obey his orders in their efforts at coercion. The railroads of the American Railway Union. The Rock Island was the chief sufferer from the mob spirit which broke loose the moment its men started to operate the line. The mob spirit which to transport the line.



BUT THE STRIKERS HAD SOME ALLIES IN THE PRESS. THE CHICAGO NEWSBOYS WORE THE STRIKERS' SYMBOL, A WHITE RIBBON, AND OFTEN DUMPED ANTISTRIKE NEWSPAPERS.

THE RAILROAD OWNERS AND THE GOVERNMENT HAD DICTATES OF THEIR OWN.

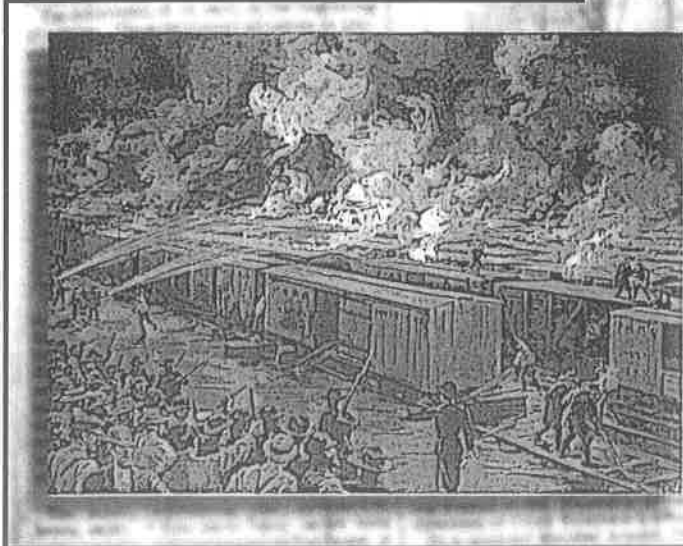


THE RAILROAD OWNERS HIRED 2,000 DEPUTIES TO BREAK THE STRIKE.

WHEN BEATINGS AND COURT INJUNCTIONS DIDN'T STOP THE STRIKE, PRESIDENT GROVER CLEVELAND ORDERED FEDERAL TROOPS TO CHICAGO.

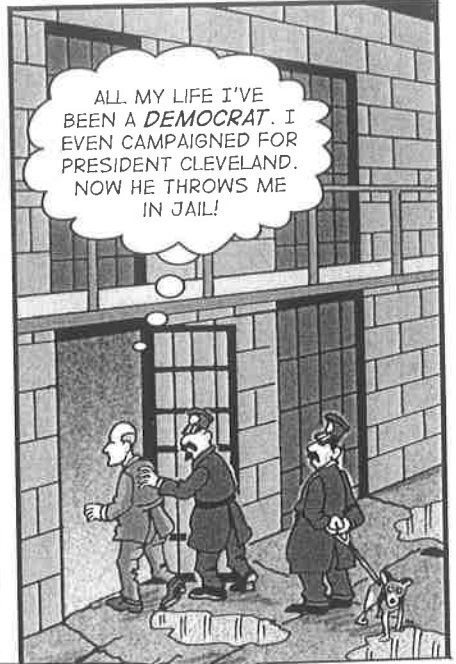
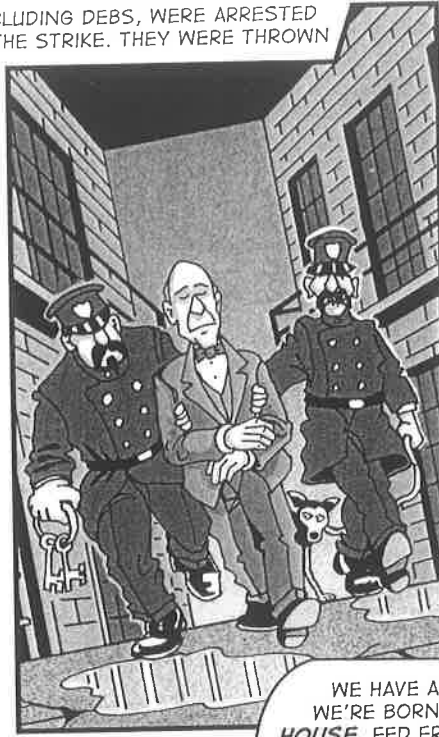
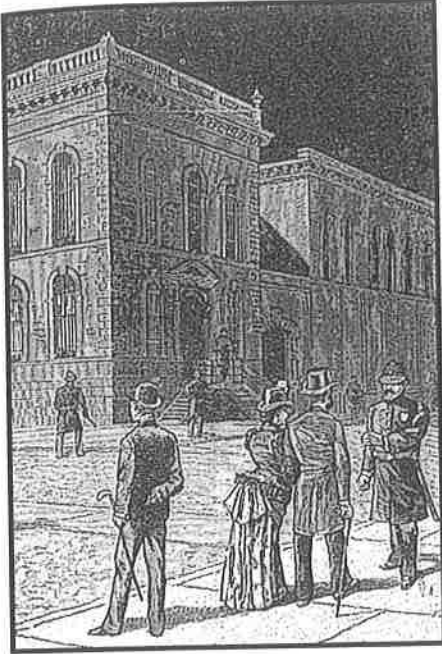


ON JULY 6, THE STRIKERS SET FIRE TO HUNDREDS OF RAILROAD CARS ALL OVER THE CITY.



THE ILLINOIS NATIONAL GUARD CORNERED STRIKERS AND FIRED ON THEM. THE CHICAGO TIMES SAID THE POLICE THEN MOVED IN TO "FINISH THE JOB." THE STRIKERS RETREATED, CARRYING THEIR DEAD AND INJURED. NO ONE KNOWS HOW MANY.

ON JULY 17, THE A.R.U. STRIKE LEADERS, INCLUDING DEBS, WERE ARRESTED FOR VIOLATING THE INJUNCTIONS AGAINST THE STRIKE. THEY WERE THROWN INTO THE COOK COUNTY JAIL.



ALL MY LIFE I'VE BEEN A **DEMOCRAT**. I EVEN CAMPAIGNED FOR PRESIDENT CLEVELAND. NOW HE THROWS ME IN JAIL!

WE HAVE A SAYING HERE. WE'RE BORN IN A **PULLMAN HOUSE**, FED FROM THE **PULLMAN SHOP**, TAUGHT IN THE **PULLMAN SCHOOL**, CATECHIZED IN THE **PULLMAN CHURCH**, AND WHEN WE DIE, WE ARE BURIED IN THE **PULLMAN CEMETERY** AND GO TO **PULLMAN HELL**.

IN THE MEANTIME, WE GET TO ROT IN THE **PULLMAN JAIL** COMPLETE WITH A **PULLMAN RAT**!



WELL, BROTHER DEBS, WELCOME TO **HOTEL PULLMAN**!



TURNKEY, COULD WE USE YOUR BRAVE DOG TO CATCH A MONSTER RAT?

