

This letter is fictional but authentically represents the ideas of the historical figure. Quotations indicate statements actually made by the historical person.

Dear President Cleveland,

I know that you are aware of the labor troubles that have beset my company. The Pullman Palace Car Company has given the workers a decent place to live and work, hoping that it will help lead to a better class of workmen and citizens and unrest would be minimal. It has also helped to protect its employees from the corrupting influences of saloons, brothels, and other negative influences. The Pullman Company established a beautiful community on the outskirts of Chicago. It provides its employees with free parks, libraries, schools, landscaped yards, paved streets, sidewalks, plumbing, and even electricity. The company did all of this to ensure the workers' happiness and well-being were protected.

In order to protect the Pullman Company's very existence, drastic measures had to be taken as a result of the **Depression of 1893**. Orders for railroad cars dried up. The few **bids** that were accepted were being won by businesses that undercut its competitors. In order to survive, the Pullman Company had to submit bids at a loss to the company. This was done to keep the workers employed. The only other option was to shut down the plant and put all 10,000 employees out of work. Again to keep from shutting the plant down, we had to cut hours and wages. We reduced employee's pay and hours so that it would not be necessary to eliminate jobs.

How did the employees react to such measures to save their jobs? They listed their complaints and asked to speak to management. I explained to them that these decisions were mine to make. I worked hard to create and build this company. Because it is my property, the workers who do not like my decisions can go to work elsewhere. There was nothing to arbitrate. However, I voluntarily met with them and discussed the company's situation. Everyone in attendance seemed to understand. Once they left, however, they were brainwashed by only a few outsiders. They went on strike two days later, May 11th. This strike continued until June 26th when the American Railway Union joined, increasing the size and scope of the strike.

These strikers from Chicago as well as outsiders began hindering **interstate commerce** by disrupting train service. This is in direct violation of the **Sherman Anti-trust Act**. This union is an illegal conspirator who has, without doubt, restrained trade and commerce between the states. This violation was confirmed by the recent federal court **injunction** against the strike leaders.

This leads us to our current situation. According to the federal district attorney in Chicago conditions were so bad that special deputies were needed. Our city is no longer safe. Hoodlums have taken over the streets of Chicago. They are damaging private property. Our state and local governments have proven to be ineffectual. It is the responsibility of the federal government to protect private property and you are not fulfilling this duty. The strikers are also impeding interstate commerce and disrupting the movement of the United States mail. If you don't stop the violence here you will be encouraging this kind of law breaking in cities across the nation. It is under these circumstances that I ask that you use your constitutional powers to protect interstate commerce and the U.S. mail service by sending federal troops to restore order and put an end to the violence that has befallen our city.

Kindest Regards,

George M. Pullman