

“To Work & Rest”

Exodus 23:10-12; Ecclesiastes 2:22-25; 1 Thessalonians 1:2-5



Labor Day began in 1894. It was the culmination of one of the most serious domestic crisis events the USA had experienced. The Pullman Strike of 1894 would define the era.

Labor Day is the political result of the Pullman Strike of 1894.

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Sept. 4, 2022

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The Panic of
1893 and the
Depression
of 1893-1898

In 1890 the economy began to collapse worldwide. In the USA the period following the Civil War was a boom time creating a new industrialism. More goods were being produced than could be consumed. The government for over a decade shrunk the money supply.

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The Panic of
1893 and the
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This led to a deflationary cycle. Wages fell as did prices. Major factories began massive lay-offs. Two major manufactures went bankrupt in 1892. Unemployment went from just over 3% in 1892 to 20% in 1895. In May of 1893 the stock market collapsed.

Ecclesiastes 2:22-25 [ESV]

20 So I turned about and gave my heart up to despair over all the toil of my labors under the sun, 21 because sometimes a person who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave everything to be enjoyed by someone who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil.

22 What has a man from all the toil and striving of heart with which he toils beneath the sun? 23 For all his days are full of sorrow, and his work is a vexation. Even in the night his heart does not rest. This also is vanity. 24 There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God, 25 for apart from him who can eat or who can have enjoyment?

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Mike Rowe was the host of Discovery Channel hit show “Dirty Jobs” [2005-2012] it has recently been re-booted in January 2022 on Discovery.

He has become a major advocate for training in the Trades.

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Mike Rowe – Opera singer, musician, voice over actor, TV anchor, author and Trades Advocate.

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Mike Rowe did not start in the “Trades”, his grandfather and uncle were in carpentry. His father became a teacher. Mike went to college and has a Bachelor's in Communications.

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His foundation connects young people with opportunities in the trades. His “S.W.E.A.T Pledge” is a commitment he asks each young person working with his foundation to make. It is a call to personal responsibility.

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Here are 7
principles of
work from
the Bible.

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musician, voice over actor,
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Genesis 2:15 [ESV]

15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

Principle:

Humanity was created with a need to be productive and work.

Proverbs 16:3 [ESV]

3 Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will be established.

Principle:

Commit your work to God, knowing that He will direct your endeavors.

Colossians 3:23-24 [ESV]

23 Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

Principle:

Be diligent and positive in you work knowing it has eternal purpose because we serve Christ.

Proverbs 12:14 [ESV]

14 From the fruit of his mouth a man is satisfied with good, and the work of a man's hand comes back to him.

Principle:

A positive attitude and a good work ethic brings success and respect.

Ephesians 4:28 [ESV]

28 Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

Principle:

We must not steal from others through violence, stealth or deception, instead we should be productive so that from our surplus we can bless others.

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12 [ESV]

11...and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, 12 so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.

Principle:

Live an exemplary and circumspect lifestyle and be productive because you are a witness of Christ

2 Thessalonians 3:11-12 [ESV]

10 For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. 11 For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. 12 Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.

2 Thessalonians 3:11-12 [ESV]

Principle:

To the best of your ability be responsible for yourself and avoid slothful behavior.

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The Sabbath is the observance most Rabbis credit with holding Judaism together after the destruction of the 2nd Temple in AD 70. It begins every Friday evening with lighting of 2 candles by the “Woman of the House” no less than 18 minutes before sunset. The woman covers her face and eyes with her hands and prays a blessing.

The woman Sabbath no later than 18 minutes before sundown.
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The Sabbath continues until Saturday evening at 40 minutes following sunset. There are 39 proscriptions against various types of work that can't be done on the Sabbath. The Sabbath begins with a meal and ends with a meal. Use of electronic devices are forbidden.

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The 2 candles of the Sabbath are: Zachor [Remembrance] & Shamor [Observance]. Even in the time of Jesus the Sabbath was central to Jewish identity. Jesus in Mark 2:27 tells us the Sabbath was made for humanity not the other way around. Modern Rabbis also interpret the Sabbath in this way.

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Exodus 23:10-12

10 "For six years you shall sow your land and gather in its yield, 11 but the seventh year you shall let it rest and lie fallow, that the poor of your people may eat; and what they leave the beasts of the field may eat. You shall do likewise with your vineyard, and with your olive orchard.

12 "Six days you shall do your work, but on the seventh day you shall rest; that your ox and your donkey may have rest, and the son of your servant woman, and the alien, may be refreshed.

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The Sabbath was to be a day of refreshing, recharging and honoring God.

It was a day of rest not only for a Jewish man, and his wife and children, but for his servants and their families as well as aliens. God even extended it to Jewish livestock.

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Deuteronomy 5:12-15 [ESV]

12 "Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you. 13 Six days you shall labor and do all your work, 14 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter or your male servant or your female servant, or your ox or your donkey or any of your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates, that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you. 15 You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.

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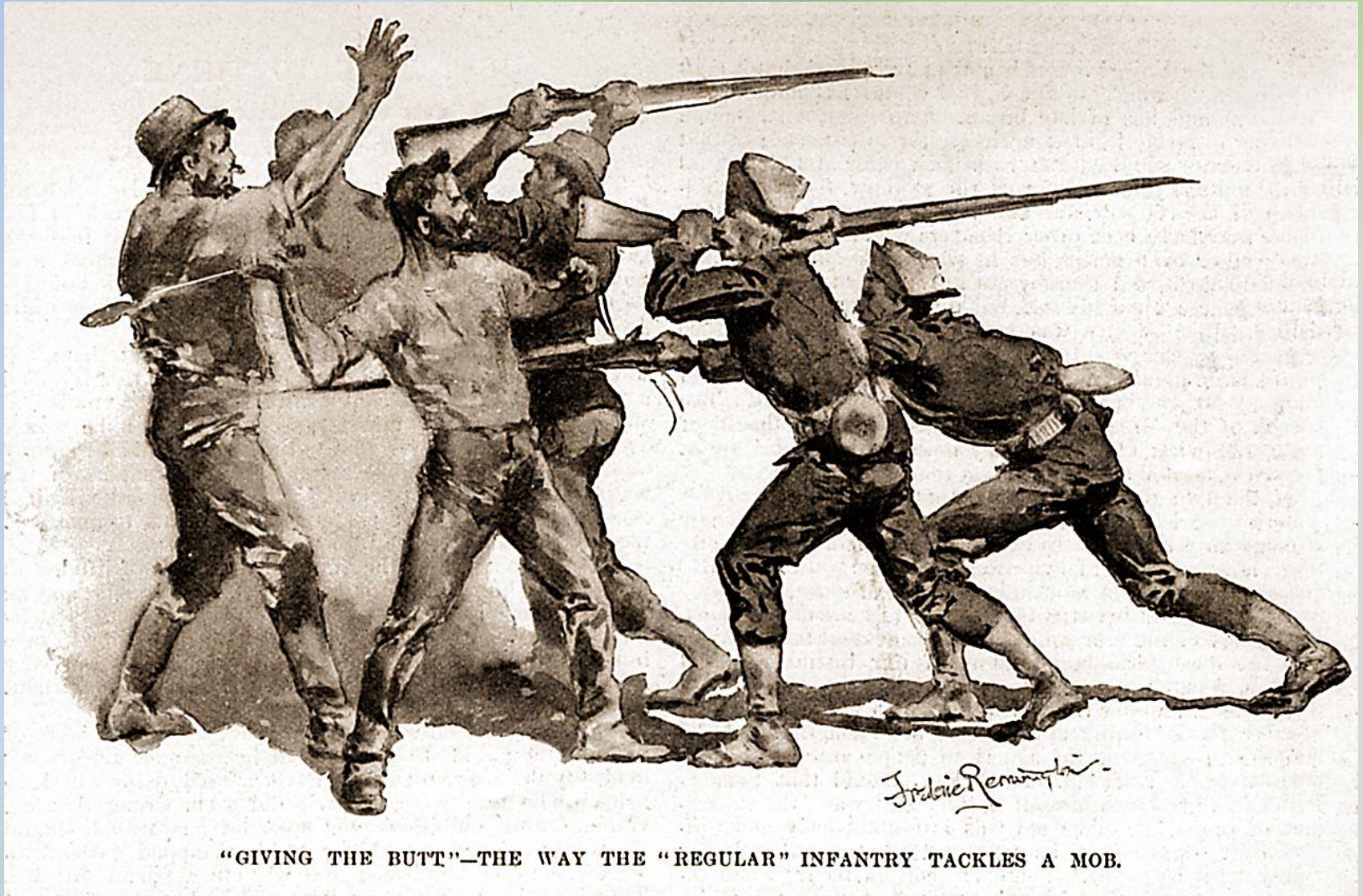


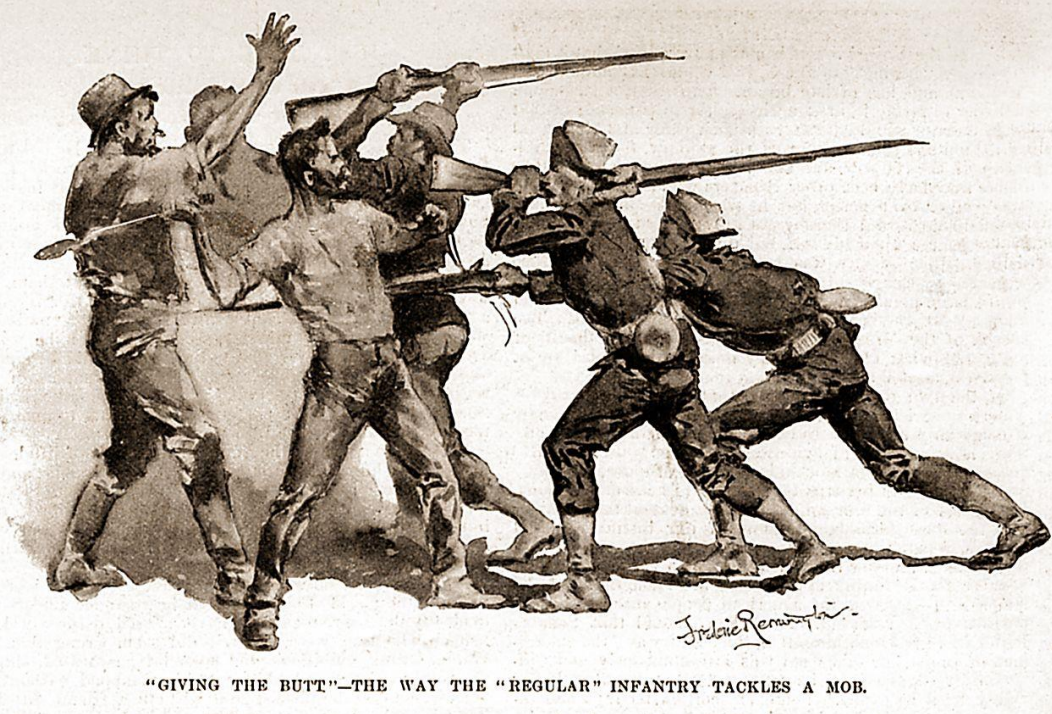
Illustration by Fredric Remington for *Harper's Weekly* in July 1894

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Sept. 4, 2022

1 Thessalonians 1:2-5 [ESV]

2 We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, 3 remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. 4 For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, 5 because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.



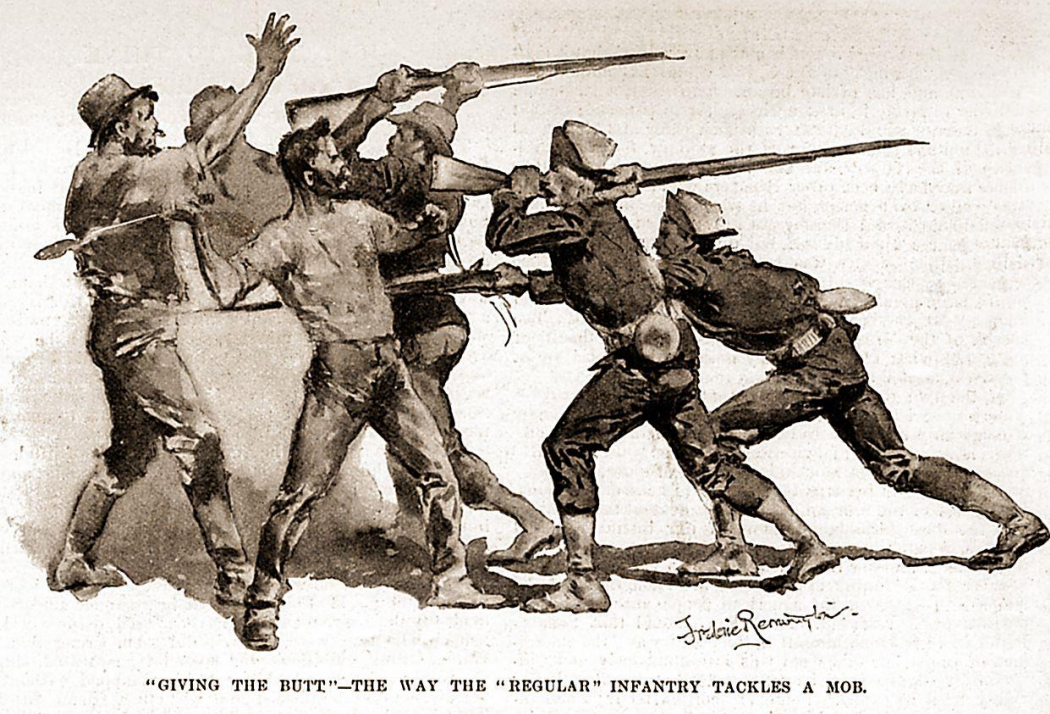
"GIVING THE BUTT"—THE WAY THE "REGULAR" INFANTRY TACKLES A MOB.

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*Exodus 23:10-12;
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Illustration by Fredric
Remington for *Harper's
Weekly* in July 1894

In May the Pullman Strike began. Due to the depression, railroadlines cancelled orders for cars. Pullman Company reduced wages for thie workers trying to avoid laying them off. But the Pullman Co. kept housing rents and store prices at the same level. Their workers went on strike.



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Illustration by Fredric
Remington for *Harper's*
Weekly in July 1894

The strike spread throughout the railway system and by June was turning violent. Due to disruption in transport of people and goods President Grover Cleveland called out Federal troops to break the strike. On the 7th of July state and federal troops fired on strikers who were burning and looting.



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Illustration by Fredric
Remington for *Harper's
Weekly* in July 1894

The strike ended July 20th but did tremendous damage to President Cleveland's Democratic party due to public outrage toward the treatment of the strikers. The Democratic Party would not control any portion of the Federal government for over 30 years.

Our work can become drudgery.

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Genesis 3:19 & 23 [ESV]

19 By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

...

23 therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken.

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President Grover Cleveland in August of 1894, in an attempt at damage control, pushed through Congress the Labor Day Proclamation.

Psalm 90:17 [ESV]

17 Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!

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Labor Day likewise is a pause in the American calendar to pay tribute to the men and women who work with their hands to build this country. It is appropriate that it is a day of rest.