



Political Cartoons

Labor Day began in the late 1800s largely because there was a feeling among the general public that the common laborer was being ignored—or even abused. These political cartoons illustrate some of the feelings of the time:



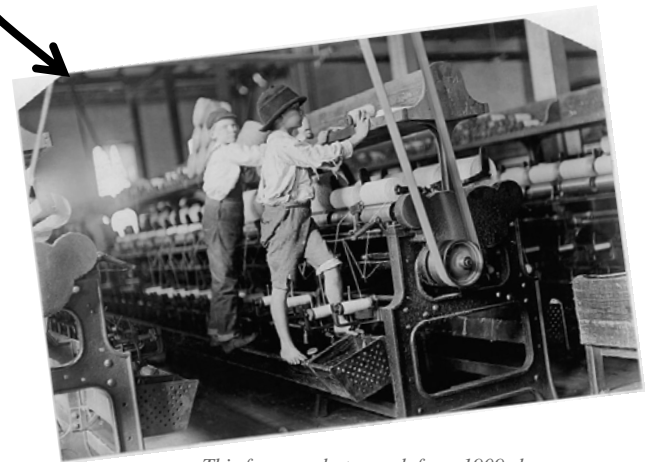
This political cartoon from 1894 was inspired by the Pullman Railroad Strike (a key event that led to the creation of Labor Day). The worker is being squeezed between low wages and high rents by his "fat-cat" employer.



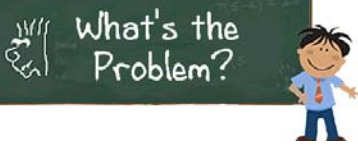
This political cartoon from 1902 is referring to child labor. The use of children as low-wage workers was common in the factories.



This cartoon from the 1870s asks the question, "Who stole the people's money?", and then shows several wealthy business men pointing to the "other guy." It is a statement about the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer.



This famous photograph from 1909 shows children working on a mill in Macon, Georgia.



Labor Day Quotations

Today, Labor Day is seen as a holiday to honor the “working man,” a title that has earned great respect throughout American history. Here are a few quotes attributed to successful Americans that honor the “working man”:

- The only place success comes before work is in the dictionary.
~ **Vince Lombardi** (1913-1970, Professional football coach)
- A man is not paid for having a head and hands, but for using them.
~ **Elbert Hubbard** (1856-1915, American writer)
- Hard work spotlights the character of people: some turn up their sleeves, some turn up their noses, and some don't turn up at all.
~ **Sam Ewing** (b. 1949, American baseball player)
- When your work speaks for itself, don't interrupt.
~ **Henry J. Kaiser** (1882-1967, American industrial)
- I'm a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work, the more I have of it.
~ **Thomas Jefferson** (1743-1826, American Founding Father)
- There is no substitute for hard work.
~ **Thomas Edison** (1847-1931, American inventor)
- Labor gives birth to ideas.
~ **Jim Rohn** (1930-2009, American entrepreneur)
- Nothing will work unless you do.
~ **Maya Angelou** (b. 1928, American poet)
- The only thing that overcomes hard luck is hard work.
~ **Harry Golden** (1902-1981, American Jewish writer)
- Many times a day I realize how much my own life is built upon the labors of my fellow-men, and how earnestly I must exert myself in order to give in return as much as I have received.
~ **Albert Einstein** (1879-1955, Scientist)
- Management is nothing more than motivating other people.
~ **Lee Iacocca** (b. 1924, American businessman)