

## HOW THE REACTIONARY DAILY PRESS POISONS THE PUBLIC MIND BY DELIBERATE MISREPRESENTATIONS.

**T**HE ARENA has recently exposed the systematic method by which the industrial autocracy is poisoning the minds of the people by means of its various press bureaus for the manufacture of tainted news and through its kept editors on the reactionary daily press. One vicious method of deceiving the casual reader has of late been so generally resorted to as to call for special attention.

This latest trick to deceive the business man and the casual reader of the newspaper, who has only time to scan its pages before his

that the citizens in a certain locality were opposed to a certain proposed referendum. The opposition was perfectly natural, perfectly proper, and something not only to be expected but inevitable, and had nothing whatever to do with opposition to the referendum principle of government, which colleges, universities and voters alike throughout Oregon are overwhelmingly in favor of. Tens and probably hundreds of thousands of voters all over the country, who merely read the misleading headlines, concluded that the great educational institutions of Oregon

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# **“Hang Haywood and a Million Men Will March In Revenge,” Says Darrow**

breakfast or on the car *en route* for his office is found in the setting-up of headings that are wholly misleading in character,—headings which pretend to state news-facts that follow, but which in reality convey an entirely erroneous or false impression.

A short time after the dispensers of tainted news had flooded the country with the absolutely false statement that the referendum was not a success in Oregon, a great number of papers published dispatches coming from different parts of Oregon. These dispatches were so headed up as to mislead all readers who only perused the display headings. Thus, the reader's eye falls on a heading telling him that certain educational institutions are opposed to the referendum, or that the citizens in certain given towns are overwhelmingly opposed to the referendum. Such headings, in large display type, were published far and wide. Now the readers who took the pains to peruse the fine type in which the dispatches were published, found out that the university or college referred to was merely opposed to a proposed referendum that would affect the college interests; or



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were opposed to Direct-Legislation, and that citizens in different communities were equally opposed to it. This, of course, is precisely what the feudalism of privileged wealth desired to have conveyed and was a part of its campaign of misrepresentation by which it hopes to retain its hold as autocratic master of government and exploiter of the wealth-producing and consuming millions of America.

Another way in which certain daily papers poison the minds of the general reader against incorruptible leaders of the people whom the industrial autocracy fears, is by putting into their mouths utterances that discredit them and by distorting statements so that they appear to mean something entirely different from the words uttered or the intention intended to be conveyed. Perhaps no man in public life to-day has suffered more seriously at the hands of unscrupulous editors and controlled newspapers than has Mr. Bryan; but few men in public life, who have proved themselves to be absolutely incorruptible and who have taken a stand squarely in the interests of Jeffersonian democracy and Lincoln republicanism, have escaped the innuendoes and deliberate attempts of certain papers to misrepresent them and destroy their influence. A very noticeable example of this character was found in the Boston *Post* of July 25th, which published on its front page a double-column "scare" head-line, as follows:

"'Hang Haywood and a Million Men Will March in Revenge,' Says Darrow."

The above alleged quotation was put in quotation points. Following it was a large portrait of Mr. Darrow. Probably ten or twenty thousand of the *Post's* readers only read that false statement, printed as a direct quotation. Those who took the pains to read the *Post's* dispatch which followed the sensational and false quotation, found no such utterance. Instead, Mr. Darrow's remark was given as follows:

"Mr. Darrow, in closing the argument of the morning session, said that 'if the jury should hang Bill Haywood, one million willing hands will seize the banner of liberty by the open grave and bear it on to victory.'"

Very different is the above perfectly proper and doubtless truthful prediction from the incendiary threat which the *Post* represented Mr. Darrow as making. Yet the ten or twenty thousand people who read only the *Post's* heading will tell their friends of the threat given and the incendiary character of the remark, with the result that Mr. Darrow will be discredited in so far as the false statement is believed. And yet the *Post* pretends to be a friend of justice and freedom,—a strictly "safe and sane" daily educator.