

Negro-White Unity Glows in Bessemer

By Doxey Wilkerson

(Daily Worker Staff Correspondent)

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 5.—Louis Tarrant, Negro delegate from Bessemer, Alabama, who led the CIO Convention in today's discussion of the anti-poll tax resolution, is symbolic of the new relations which the progressive industrial union movement is forging among the white and Negro workers of the Deep South.

Delegate Tarrant is the sole convention representative of 800 white and Negro members of Raymond Red-Ore Local 121, Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers of America. Serving as president of his local from 1937 to 1940, and since then as vice-president, Mr. Tarrant is enthusiastic about the "very splendid understanding and cooperation between the white and Negro workers" in his union. As he tells the story of his local at Bessemer:

"A few years ago, as in most places on 'The Mountain,' Negro workers shared only in the lowest-paying jobs. There was no need to say anything about it; that's just the way things were.

"A year and a half ago, after the war broke out, I made an appeal in our union for Negro-white unity on the job. Our executive board met and drew up a plan. We should share equally in all jobs, low and high, that neither should fight against the other, that there should be full understanding and cooperation between the two groups of workers.

"Now, any number of Negroes have been elevated to higher jobs—foremen, motormen, electricians, and others. There are several Negroes on our executive board, and our local is the only one on 'The Mountain' with a Negro secretary-treasurer."

Louis Tarrant is full of praise for Reid Robinson, national president of the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, whom he characterizes as a "splendid leader whom we support 100 per cent, a much better leader than that of any other organization I know." He attributes to the influence of Reid Robinson the appointment of several Negro organizers in the Bessemer region on the national payroll, as well as much of the wholesome Negro-white cooperation on "The Mountain."

Not only on the job, but also in

the larger community, the white and Negro members of Louis Tarrant's local have been active in the struggle for Negro freedom. They are working hard for repeal of the poll tax. They are consistent supporters of the Southern Negro Youth Congress. They have sent delegates to two convention of the Southern Conference on Human Welfare.

When this gray-haired, straightforward and alert Negro mine worker from "The Mountain" in Bessemer, Alabama, reports that "our white and Negro members always meet together and work together splendidly," he seems to realize that he is proclaiming a new era in race relations which the organized labor movement is destined to bring to the South.

De Marigny Fights for Life

NASSAU, Bahamas, Nov. 5 (UP).—The Crown began hammering at the alibi defense of Count Alfred De Marigny in cross-examination today, seeking to break down the debonnaire self assurance with which he denied in six hours of direct testimony that he murdered his multi-millionaire father-in-law, the fabulous Sir Harry Oakes.

That it was going to be a battle of wits without quarter between the pale-faced nobleman and dapper Attorney Eric Hallinan was indicated at the outset when De Marigny bent over the railing of the witness box, eager for the test.

"Where did you get the name of De Marigny?" Hallinan asked.

"It's my mother's name," De Marigny replied. "My father's name was Pauquereaux. My mother and father were divorced when I was a child. I lived with my father but when I first saw mother when I was eighteen she asked me to use her name."