

LAST NIGHTS MEETING

Not only was the resolution unani- mously adopted at the big "Foreign- ers'" loyalty meeting in the Industrial Convention hall last night satisfactory, but the speeches themselves were of a character that reflected credit upon the speakers and upon the nationalities they represented. The idea of giving our foreign born population an opportunity to publicly express itself on the great war issue was a good one and the result cannot fail to be en- tirely beneficial. While nobody doubt- ed the sincerity and loyalty of practi- cally all the great mass of foreign born population which resides with us, no doubt many of the most intelligent of that population felt that it was desir- able that they should be given an op- portunity to declare themselves.

The resolution which was adopted un- animously covers the ground very satisfactorily. It would indeed be a surprise to the British born people here if their foreign born fellow citi- zens should not be happy and con- tented under the rule of which we are all so proud. The most complete lib- erty and freedom are extended to every citizen, no matter from which country he comes. Every subject here is allowed to worship God under his own vine and fig tree, none daring to make him afraid; and he may confi- dently rely upon receiving absolute justice in our courts and in all walks of life. Under such circumstances dis- loyalty or a failure to appreciate the conditions of citizenship and the value of living under the British flag would indeed be a crime. Judging by the ex- pressions of opinion and the general enthusiasm which prevailed at the meeting, the number of citizens who do not appreciate the conditions of citizenship, and who are not in sym- pathy with the cause which the British flag and British arms represent in the

present great struggle, may be set down as negligible.

War under any condition is a dreadful thing, but it usually exercises a purifying and refining influence. It brings people closer together, helps to remove selfishness and fosters qualities of self-sacrifice, patriotism, love of community and country, and perhaps in the final estimate has a great influence in elevating the people. If the result of the present war obliterates from civilization the shackles of military autocracy and gives to the nations of the world a new birth of freedom, then the sufferings and bloodshed through which the nations are passing will not have been in vain.