

THE BELGIAN MISSION

THE presence of the Belgian commercial mission here and the official opening of the Belgian art exhibition yesterday by Lord Tweedsmuir are events of far more than purely local interest, fortunate as Montreal is in being the scene of their first appearance in Canada. The Belgian mission have come here for the purpose of stimulating trade between the two countries. They have a complaint—if the word may be used—which is constantly heard among the great trading nations of the world, namely, that one side or the other is giving more than it is getting; that the “balance of trade” is too far tipped up against one or the other of the partners to existing trade pacts. The Belgians, like the good business men they traditionally are, have taken the sensible course of sending representatives over here to see what can be done about stimulating Canadian trade and have brought with them many tangible evidences of their skill as makers of beautiful and useful things.

They are heartily welcome. It is not, in the long run, in Canada's interest that her trade with any country should be lop-sidedly in her favour. The result is too often resentment and the loss of more ground than was ever gained. It is to be hoped that our Belgian guests and our own trade and manufacturing experts will find common ground upon which to meet to their mutual advantage. His Excellency's idea that Canada may in turn send representatives to Belgium is a good one. As he expressed it, these “interchanges of knowledge” can result in nothing but good.

Star 26/5707