

united Canada and Belgium during two world wars have helped to strengthen the long friendship.

For Belgium, Canada is a NATO ally directly involved in the security of Western Europe, an associate in the Western group of countries at the United Nations, and an important trading partner.

#### Trade interests

Though neither country is the other's major customer, trade between Canada and Belgium is considerable and is expected to grow steadily. In 1974, exports from the Belgium-Luxembourg Economic Union to Canada amounted to about \$173 million, while exports from Canada to the Union came to some \$366 million — almost twice the amount for 1970 — and reached a new record of \$477 million in 1976. Since the Belgian economy is based mainly on the processing and manufacturing industries, Canada's exports to that country have been primarily industrial raw materials such as wood pulp, zinc, timber, molybdenum, nickel, copper and asbestos. Exports of finished products, which have accounted for little more than 8 per cent of the total, have been mainly power saws, telecommunications equipment and pharmaceutical products. Belgium's principal exports to Canada have been organic chemical products, diamonds, photographic plates and films, steel cables, automobiles and automobile parts.

Belgium is the sixth-largest investor in Canada, with \$360 million in direct investment at the end of 1974; Belgium and Luxembourg together constitute Canada's fourth-largest market in the European Economic Community (in fact, Belgium was the first member of the EEC to announce its support for the "contractual link" with the Community), and its tenth-largest market in the world. A Belgian-Canadian Chamber of Commerce has existed for more than 20 years.

#### Cultural ties

The interest shared by Canada and Belgium in cultural matters culminated in 1967 in an agreement for the annual exchange of students on postgraduate scholarships, as well as artistic and cultural exchanges. The Belgium-Canada committee and a Belgium-Quebec sub-committee, which jointly administer the agreement, are scheduled to meet again in October. As part of the policy of promoting Canadian culture abroad, the

#### Cultural relations between Canada and Belgium

Since the signing of the Canada/Belgium Cultural Agreement in 1967, an increasing number of Canadians have taken advantage of the opportunities for exchanges and cultural promotion. For example:

- Canada offers 24 university scholarships to Belgian students (18 from the Federal Government, five from Quebec and one from Alberta). In addition, the Canada Council, through its programs of aid to Canadian students and artists, enables Canadians to study in Belgium in various courses in the performing and visual arts or to continue university studies.
- University professors are eligible for a number of programs which allow them to teach or to attend conferences or symposia overseas.
- Since 1967, various Canadian performing companies have been seen in Belgian cities such as Brussels, Liège, Anvers, Namur, Tournai and Arlon. These are: Théâtre du Nouveau Monde, Rideau-Vert, Canadian Puppets Festivals, Feux-Follets, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, National Ballet of Canada, Les Ballets Modernes du Québec, and Le Groupe Instrumentation Musicale Electronique. Various soloists and singers have also performed in individual concerts.
- In visual arts, apart from the permanent collections of contemporary and Eskimo prints, many special exhibitions have been presented in Belgium during the past years. Some major events are currently under preparation such as an exhibition of Canadian Contemporary Painters, which will probably circulate in Belgium in 1979. An exhibition prepared by the Ontario government, *We Among Others*, and a McLaren Retrospective (photographs and films) will be seen at the Canadian Cultural and Information Centre in Brussels next year.
- Canada pays special attention to the field of literature; in 1970, an annual Canada/Belgium Literary Prize was created for French-language writers of both countries, given alternately, to a Canadian and a Belgian author. The list of laureats since the first prize was given is: for Belgium, G. Norge, S. Lilar, P. Mertens and M. Moreau; for Canada, G. Miron, R. Ducharme and M.-C. Blais. This year a Canadian will be honoured.
- Canada has participated regularly at the annual Brussels Book Fair. Each year, for the past five years, the Department of External Affairs has offered lots of 150 books to the Universities of Liège and Gand. The Canada Council, with its program of assistance to Canadian publishers, is sending this year some 1,200 books to the Canadian Embassy for distribution in Belgium.



*The Belgian royal guests study the Book of Remembrance in the Memorial Chamber in the Parliament Buildings, Ottawa on September 20 with Governor-General Jules Léger (right). Standing beside King Baudouin is James K. Jerome, Speaker of the House.*