

Why has Sir A. T. Galt's Mission failed ?—Sir A. T. Galt has in vain, for the last two years, endeavoured to negotiate a commercial treaty with France and Spain. Who will say that Sir A. T. Galt lacks the ordinary intelligence of an ambassador, to successfully accomplish his important mission ? No ! the difficulties our representative has had to contend with are not to be found on the part of France or Spain, who both so much desire intimate commercial relations with Canada, but they are to be found in the British Foreign Office, where Sir A. T. Galt's freedom of action has been impaired, where petty Colonial interests cannot possibly be entertained, to the detriment of the higher and more pressing interests of the empire.

We beg to state here that Mr. J. Perrault, having had the honour of several interviews with the Minister of Commerce in France, and having had the privilege of furnishing him, at his request, with a copy of our tariff, he was informed by that gentlemen that, with the exception of the duties on French wines, which amounted to 50 per cent., the Canadian tariff was perfectly satisfactory. And the Minister added that if Canada was a treaty-making power, he would have no hesitation in agreeing at once to the preliminaries to be submitted to the French Parliament, granting us all the advantages of the most favoured nation clause ; that is to say, substituting a 10 per cent. tariff to the prohibitory clauses, under which our manufacturers and producers are now being deprived of what might be a most important foreign market.

But Canada being a colony of Great Britain, the whole matter must be referred to the British Foreign Office. There it will have to wait for years the full discussion of a renewal of the Anglo French Treaty, involving every manufacturing and commercial interest of both countries. That is a practical illustration of the undesirable position in which we stand, as a colony, in commercial matters.