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# TARIFF EATS ITS OWN CHILDREN

**Present fiscal system has withering  
effect upon small manufacturers.**

**By RODERICK McKENZIE.**

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Since the farmers' platform containing demands for changes in the custom tariff, was placed before the Canadian public, there has been considerable rumbling from the direction of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. It was in February of this year that the C. M. A. finally gave definite expression to its feelings.

In their statement the manufacturers "urge most strongly that all tariff controversy should be postponed until the country has settled the immense problem of readjustment from war to peace conditions." There is a familiar sound to the proposition of "postponing" all controversies in respect to the tariff. Beneficiaries of protection always had a reason why discussion of the question should be deferred. During the war the demand was for postponement until the end of the war. Many agreed there were reasons why that should be done. The war has ceased; still, another reason is being advanced. Most of the people are convinced that an essential readjustment from war to peace conditions involves the adjustment of custom duties. No other question to be considered has within it so much that affects the future progress and economic welfare of Canada, as that of the question of special industries being granted special privileges by the government at the expense of the people.

The Canadian Manufacturers' Association assume that they believe the country should concentrate its energy on the task of returning from war to peace conditions; that there is one and only one essential thing to do during the transition period, and that is to **leave custom duties severely alone**, "and everything else that is needful will be added unto you."

Thoughtful Canadians think the one most essential thing to do in our dilemma is to devote our energies towards converting into liquid