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## CURRENT COMMENTS

### The Mending of the Tariff

NOW that Parliament is in session, a great number of questions of vital interest to the country are being discussed, both in and out of the legislative halls. One of these questions, which must continue a burning one until some adequate measure of reform is instituted, is the tariff. In the early weeks of the session the attention of the Government was called to this matter by a deputation from the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, when the views and desires of that important body were definitely presented. Perhaps the most telling point made on this occasion by the advocates of a higher tariff was that while Canada was now enjoying a period of prosperity, there was danger of the country being flooded with foreign-made goods just so soon as a wave of depression visited the United States, signs of which were not altogether wanting. The surplus of American manufacturers would then seriously interfere with the business of Canadian manufacturers. The present is the best time to avoid such a contingency by enforcing a higher tariff.

In direct opposition to these views, another deputation waited upon the Government a few days later, representing the farming interests. The desire of this de-

putation was that no changes be made in the tariff, claiming that the present restrictions were sufficiently great. To both, the Ministers promised the Government's consideration.

The farmers seem, unfortunately, to be working against their own interests. A concise and unassailable argument was given in last month's NATIONAL MONTHLY, why farmers of Canada are as much in need as any of protection, the facts showing that an immense amount of farm produce is brought into this country that might and should be raised at home. The farmers, moreover, are not consistent, for in Ontario they are asking that the beet sugar industry be protected. Even the strongest free-traders are forced to sometimes admit that protection is a good thing, and they should be willing to consider the interests of Canada as a whole.

### High License for the Chinese

THE Chinese poll tax has been raised from \$100 to \$500. It is apparent that this is a most important move, as a means of controlling the immigration into Canada of a class of people of whom we now have quite enough. The Chinese population of Canada numbers about 16,-