

THE COST OF LIVING.

To the Editor.

Sir—Most householders are noting with dismay the rise in prices of the necessaries of life, especially tea, tobacco, and matches. There is no reason why we should not try to grow our own tea, and there is every reason why we should object to pay the present price demanded for this article. It may not be generally known, but both raspberry and strawberry leaves are equal, if not superior, as a beverage to the tea plant; while matte, a plant used largely in South America, is to be found growing wild in this State. The ordinary man one meets believes we are unable to manufacture matches, because he will tell us we have not the right wood. In this he is wrong. Countries may be furnished the same as houses, but why use the foreign article when we ourselves have better material rotting in our midst. Yacca trees make much better match handles than the best wooden ones ever made, and while hundreds of tons of gum is cut and sold annually, the remainder of this very useful tree is thrown away. Tobacco leaf we grow, yet the present tax hits us in a very soft spot, for although our leaf is equal to the best our manufacture is very inferior, the consequence being that no man with a due respect for his life insurance office has any particular fondness for colonial, and although the seller tells one it can't be beat, still we ponder.—I am, &c.,

THOMAS WARD.