

CORRESPONDENCE.

Editor of THE MONTHLY:

DEAR SIR, — During the annual meeting of the Ontario Teachers' Association last month the following statements were freely made:

1. That more than 6,000 applicants wrote for a certificate of some grade.

2. That 1,400 of these were successful in getting a certificate of some kind.

3. That if the directions given to those who read the answers of the candidates, by one who had prepared some of the examination papers, were followed, the number who got

certificates would have been less. Would you kindly explain the bearing of the above statements on High Schools? I beg to thank you for your timely article in your last issue on "Inspection." Never has the freedom and independence of THE MONTHLY been more needed than now, when the lines of inspection are being so rigidly drawn. Every true educator in the country will actively support your magazine.

Yours very truly,

Ontario, Sept.

TEACHER.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

WE commend to our readers the notice on another page of our valued friend, Mr. Richard Lewis, the Head Master for so many years of the Dufferin School, Toronto.

THE MACKENZIE BASIN.—From the report of the Parliamentary Committee on the climate and resources of the Mackenzie Basin (Governor Schultz) we learn that what was formerly supposed to be an irreclaimable wilderness, with a wintry climate, is in reality a well-wooded country with a climate resembling Western Ontario; not only possessing an abundance of finest timber, suitable for all building purposes, but also containing 656,000 square miles of land fit for growth of potatoes, 316,000 suitable for wheat and 407,000 for barley. The lakes are stored with fish, there is an abundant supply of fur-bearing animals, valuable metals are found in the rocks, as well as other useful minerals, and even a vast amount of petroleum.

THE CHINOOK WINDS.—Mr. C. C. McCaul, of Fort McLeod, N.-W.T., gives interesting information about the Chinook winds in the *American Meteorological Journal*. The influence of this warm wind is felt chiefly in Southern Alberta. It blows from west to south-west, varying from a gentle breeze to a gale, and serves the purpose of moderating the temperature at any season of the year, being warm in winter and cool in summer. The approach is indicated by the accumulation of dark clouds about the mountain tops and a distant wailing or rumbling sound in the passes. The rise in temperature is wonderful, the thermometer, under its influence, occasionally rising from 20° below zero to 40° above. Southern Alberta is a vast, treeless, elevated plain, rising to the foot hills of the Rockies, to a height of about 4,000 feet, bounded on the west by a lofty range of mountains covered with ice and snow, beyond which are the mountains and valleys of British Col-