

## Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed under this heading.

### Across the Arctic Circle.

H. M. C. S. "Earl Grey,"

Archangel, Russia,

Oct. 29, 1914.

Editors of *The Civilian*:

Now that the "Earl Grey" has reached her destination, all secrecy is withdrawn, and I may give you a few details of our trip. We arrived in Halifax O.K. and reported on board the "Earl Grey." After a few days, while the vessel was being transferred from the Marine to the Naval Department, we hoisted the white ensign and were in full commission. We left Halifax on Oct 7th, 1914, and put into St. Johns, Newfoundland, to fix up a leak which had developed. After leaving there we steered a course which took us between Iceland and the Faroe Islands, crossing the Arctic Circle on the 17th. We had rather an anxious time crossing the Atlantic, as it was well known by the enemy that we were out, and as we carried no guns we had no protection at all. We kept the ship in darkness all night, and in the daytime our grey paint made us unobservable to a great extent. Had we been sighted any old tramp with a gun could have sent us to Father Neptune. The luck of the "Earl Grey" held out, and we had fine weather all the way. We were prepared to go to the North Pole, having been issued with big sheepskin coats, mocassins and lanigans. We were a sight dressed. We arrived at Archangel on Thursday, the 22nd October, the day after the greatest anniversary of the British navy, "Trafalgar Day." Leaving Halifax, we carried a heavy cargo of coal, all space was filled with it, and we had a busy time striking it down; all day and night we were at it, and only just in time, for the night we had the last bag on the upper deck sent down below, we ran into a heavy swell, and an Atlantic swell is no joke. The "Earl Grey" was built to roll, and to break ice that way, and she sure did roll some.

All's well that ends well, and the Russian Government are pleased that we have arrived, as it means that their only port now open to trade will be kept open longer than ever. It is a great sight to see the ships here; there is more traffic than has been seen for years.

Ice is beginning to form on the river here, so the "Earl Grey" will soon begin her work. The Russian Government will take her over, and we expect to be sent to Halifax. Imperial service men, that is, recovered deserters, Royal Fleet Reserve and Royal Naval Reserves, will be sent to England. In a few days we should be on our way. Bill and I are both well, and trust this will find you enjoying the very best. We have had very little news since leaving Halifax, and are, of course, looking forward to our return. With kind regards to all friends,

I remain faithfully yours,

R. HERROD.

### One of the "Old Guard" Approves.

56 William Street,

Kingston, Ont., 19th Nov., 1914.

Editors of *The Civilian*:

Dear Mr. Editors,—Thanks for reminding me that my subscription to *The Civilian* is due. I have much pleasure in returning account rendered, and in enclosing therewith amount asked for. It is quite a treat to have *The Civilian* visit me, as I am delighted to know what is going on in the Service with which for 40 years I was connected. Permit me to congratulate those who prepare the magazine for publication. To my mind it is as ably edited as the many periodicals coming under my notice. It must be of immense benefit to the Civil Service, and I am glad that what I had the temerity years ago to advocate has become an established fact.

It is likewise pleasing to note the success which has attended the Civil Service Association since its establishment. I shall always remember with satisfaction that through the courtesy of my former confreres of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, with which I spent many happy years, I was honoured by being one of the first executive of the Association.