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Whisperings From The West.

Northern Alberta Association Going Strong.

By T. A. K. T.

Clubs may come and clubs may go, but the Northern Alberta Customs Association will go on for ever. At least this is the sentiment prevailing in the breasts of the forty odd members attending the last meeting. In the West, of course, everyone is optimistic, and everyone expects big things, even to such mercenary trifles as raises of salary; but apart from such pleasant contemplations, it can honestly be said of the new organization that its infancy has been blessed with a healthy character, and, like the majority of sturdy youngsters, it has not been slow to make its presence felt. Already there are whispers of launching into real estate, and in this direction we out West are lucky, for there is quite a lot left. Then the gracious reception of our "Ambassador," Mr. A. B. Sowter, at the Civil Service Convention, and subsequently at the House, was most gratifying to all concerned. Many of the members, too, have felt the benefits of small contracts made in the coal and provision department, and others are to follow. Indeed, the N. A. C. A. has every appearance of becoming a small power in a big land.

Mr. H. C. Graham, Inspector of Ports for Alberta, visited the Capital City of Edmonton recently, on his usual tour of inspection, and as he left behind some very acceptable compliments, in exchange for sincere

good wishes, the officers at Edmonton feel justly elated.

The antediluvian saying that "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy," is as true in Alberta as in any other Province, and many and divers are the ways adopted by officers to forget manifests, clearances, and other necessary nuisances. While Collector J. W. Shera may be seen on most evenings skilfully wielding the rake and the hoe, in the laudable purpose of putting his newly acquired West End property into horticultural order, many of his officers are engaged in the equally healthy recreation of "soldiering," and it may be said to their credit they don't "play at soldiers," but go into the work heartily. Indeed, two at least have had the honour of representing their regiments in the Old Country. Social and charitable work are well represented in the ranks. Mr. Wm. Parish (Gauger) has for several years occupied the honorary position of President of the United Aids, an institution that has been, and still is, of immense service to the city. No deserving case has ever been turned down by this body, so it is small wonder that Mr. Parish has many friends—some rich, but many poor. The Secretary of the Royal Society of St. George is also a Customs Officer, and he is still receiving congratulations on the result of a recent banquet, at which