

EVENTS

Published Weekly.

13
Vol. 1, No. 11. OTTAWA, SEPTEMBER 10, 1904. Whole No. 286.

The Sale of the Canada Atlantic.

THE official Gazette contains a notice that at the semi annual meeting of the shareholders of the Grand Trunk Railway Company, to be held in London on the 29th inst., authority will be asked to acquire and take over the Canada Atlantic Railway, which means, we presume, the Canada Atlantic and Parry Sound Railway. The original Canada Atlantic Railway was built from Coteau Junction, just outside Montreal, to Ottawa, and the extension of the road from Ottawa to Georgian Bay was called the Ottawa, Arnprior and Parry Sound Railway. The Canada Atlantic Railway was amalgamated with the Ottawa, Arnprior and Parry Sound Railway in 1899. The system is 130 miles in length from Ottawa to Depot Harbor, near Parry Sound, on Georgian Bay. It would appear that the sale of the road to the Grand Trunk has not been completed, but the asking of authority from the shareholders is evidently for the object of completing negotiations which have been in progress.

Mr. Booth, the president and owner of the system, is reported in the daily papers

as saying that the Grand Trunk Railway Company knew that they could have the road any time during the last two years. This is an extraordinary statement, if it was made, for Mr. Booth knows that many months ago he agreed to sell the road to the Canadian Northern Railway Company, that the price was fixed, and that the Dominion Government was favorable to sanctioning that arrangement.

We have always taken the view, and still hold to it, that it is very much in the public interest that the Canada Atlantic Railway should become part of the Canadian Northern Railway system, for the reason that it is the only possible solution of the congestion complained of in the west. The Canada Atlantic Railway would, during the season of navigation, put the Canadian Northern Railway to Hawkesbury, and at Hawkesbury the Great Northern Railway, which runs from there to Quebec, is controlled by the Canadian Northern people. The Canadian Northern Railway is now building to Edmonton, in the North West Territories, and will shortly complete that line. The road outlined