

### The C.P.R. Land Grant.

The Ottawa correspondent of the *Globe* states that an agreement has been reached between the C.P.R. management and the Dominion Government respecting the land grant of the company.

Under the contract of 1880 the land grant awarded to the C.P.R. amounted to 25,000,000 acres. The grant was to be made in alternate sections of 640 acres, extending back 24 miles on each side of the line from Winnipeg to the summit of the mountains. The odd-numbered sections were the ones set apart for the company. In order to make good the deficiencies in the 48-mile belt, tracts of land elsewhere were also reserved. In 1886 the company's land grant was reduced by 6,793,014 acres in consideration of the extinguishment of the balance of a loan made

being the Dauphin reserve in 1895, and all the odd-numbered sections at the disposal of the Government at the date of the reservation in these several tracts have been set apart down to the present time for the purpose of providing for the company's land grants. In 1889 the company undertook the construction of what was known as the Souris branch, and were authorized by Parliament to receive a land subsidy of 6,400 acres per mile for the same. This line runs from Brandon southwesterly to Estevan, with branches easterly to Glenboro and Deloraine. By the construction of this line and the branches mentioned, the company earned a total land subsidy of 1,408,704 acres. The same terms applied to this grant as to the grant for the main line, viz., that it was to be fairly fit for settlement. Land for the purpose of meeting this grant was reserved in the vicinity of Battleford,

resection to Glenboro and Carman, and from Manitou to Deloraine. The section connecting Carman and Manitou was never built. For the construction of this line 1,396,800 acres, fairly fit for settlement, was earned. In satisfaction of this grant three reservations were made. The first was known as the international boundary reserve. It comprises about 160 townships, and extends along the international boundary, partly in Manitoba and partly in eastern Assiniboia. A second reserve, comprising about 50 townships, was made near Lethbridge, and a third reserve north of Battleford and adjoining the Souris branch reserve already spoken of. Some years ago the C.P.R. acquired the Manitoba Northwestern Ry., extending from Portage la Prairie northwesterly to Yorkton, with a branch line to Russell, but not the land grant, and also the Saskatchewan and Western Ry.,



AN EARLY TYPE OF GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY LOCOMOTIVE.

by the Government to the company, the settlement being upon the basis of \$1.50 per acre. After this reduction the net amount to which the company were entitled under the contract was 18,206,986 acres. The other reserves made, out of which the company were to choose the land grant, consisted of the odd sections in the track south of the 48-mile belt in Manitoba and Assiniboia, as far west as the Coteau de Missonir. Then there was what is known as the first and second northern blocks. The first of these extended from about 70 miles north of Calgary to about 30 miles north of Edmonton, having a width of 250 miles east and west. The second northern block was situated north of the first, and had a width of about 70 by 160 miles. There was also a reserve of about 50 miles square in the Lake Dauphin district. The reservation of these lands was made from time to time by the Government, the last one

being two strips of 12 miles wide, each running parallel to the Saskatchewan and northwesterly from near Saskatoon to the 4th meridian. Reservation was also made of a triangular block adjoining the strip, in all about 2,000,000 acres. The company were further empowered to receive 6,400 acres per mile of lands fairly fit for settlement, for the construction of what has been styled "the Pipestone extension of the Souris branch," running from Monteith Junction westerly for a distance of about 30 miles. The area earned by the building of this line was 200,328 acres. To satisfy this grant a reserve about 30 miles north of Battleford was created, comprising the odd sections in a block of 21 townships. When the C.P.R. acquired the Manitoba and Southwestern Ry. many years ago, they also became possessed of the land grant which had been voted to the latter company. The line extends from Winnipeg in a southwesterly di-

a part of the same system, connecting Minnedosa and Rapid City, a distance of about 15 miles. This latter line earned a land grant of 98,880 acres by its construction, which likewise fell into the possession of the C.P.R. The company have, therefore, earned for the main line and Pipestone and Souris branches a total of 19,816,010 acres, and for the Manitoba Southwestern Ry., and the Saskatchewan and Western Ry., 1,495,680 acres, a grand total of 21,311,690 acres.

The C.P.R. has frequently urged that there was not sufficient land of a quality fairly fit for settlement in the reserves that have been enumerated above to allow of the selection therein of the total to which it was entitled. A great many propositions and counter propositions have been made, extending over a period of twelve or fourteen years, but nothing came of them. Within the last year, as the result of elaborate surveys made by the Gov-