

The question of purchasing the Erie and Ontario Railroad, which has formed the subject of a Special Report from the Board, will be taken into consideration at the adjourned special general meeting, to be held on the 19th of June.

Since the last annual meeting, the Directors have concluded an advantageous contract for the lease by this Company, of the railway portion of the Suspension Bridge across the Niagara River. By the terms of that contract, every risk of the soundness and stability of the structure rests entirely with the Suspension Bridge Company, the Great Western Company being totally relieved of all responsibility in the event of the non-success of the principle upon which the bridge is constructed.

The Directors, in furtherance of the authority conferred at the last annual meeting, and also in pursuance of the resolution come to by the English Shareholders, at a meeting held in London on the 10th of May, 1853, concluded a contract for the construction of the Sarnia line. By the terms of this contract, the line is to be completed within twelve months of the giving of a notice to the contractors to commence operations. The Directors, feeling the great importance of the Sarnia line, as affecting the permanent interests and security of the Company, in December last gave notice to the contractor to purchase and clear the right of way, so as to be in a position to carry forward the works at an early day.

The Directors have to report that the absolute necessity of completing the laying of the main line before the frost set in, prevented the possibility of the Galt Branch being finished last season. Until the frost broke up, of course nothing could be done; but the laying of the track is now being proceeded with, and the Directors hope to be able, in a few weeks, to open the line to the public.

The Directors have to report that they have concluded an agreement, subject to the confirmation of the shareholders, to lease the extension of the Galt branch to the town of Guelph. This line,