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#### THE CHANGED ATTITUDE OF THE RAILROADS.

The statement regarding the position of the Canadian Northern Railway made public this week by Sir William Mackenzie, shows a new disposition on the part of Canadian railway magnates. Up to a very few years ago, railways went to the Government and secured subsidies, land grants, bond guarantees and other "sinews of war" whenever they felt they needed funds. In a large measure this was carried on by a system of "lobbying," and neither the public, the press, nor the country at large were informed of the proceedings. The money was turned over to the railway companies by the Government without any let or hindrance as to how it should be spent. Lately there has been a change of sentiment on the part of the people, and a desire on their part to know why and where their money is being spent, and a demand for an accounting of the funds they have handed over to the railroads.

Last year, the Canadian Northern gave the Government some Common Stock in return for a subsidy. The amount was not very large, but it at least gave the Government an opportunity to have a

say in the management of the Company's affairs. The Canadian Northern magnates are now about to go to the Government for another loan, it is said, of from \$20,000,000 to \$25,000,000. There has been a good deal of opposition on the part of certain members of Parliament in regard to any further "looting" of the treasury. As a result of this opposition, Sir William Mackenzie has done an almost unheard of thing, viz., issued a lengthy statement showing the position the company is in, the money it has derived from the Dominion, Provinces and Municipalities and, in brief, takes the public into his confidence. His defence of the Canadian Northern's position is an able one, but naturally he puts the best side of the company's case to the front. That, however, is only to be expected, and no fault will be found with Sir William Mackenzie in doing what he has done. That he should take the public into his confidence at all shows a changed attitude on the part of the railroads. Canada has been exceedingly generous with her railroads and the railroad corporations cannot complain if the people demand some accounting of the money which they have so generously furnished the roads.