

# NEWSPAPER PRAISES MATHESON GOVERNMENT

at 100 ... Street, Charlottetown, P.E.I.  
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## Thoughts On Election And Its Possibilities

Now that Her Majesty the Queen and Prince Philip are safely back at home after their Canadian Tour during which millions of Canadians had the opportunity and privilege of attesting their love and devotion to the Crown, it is appropriate that we turn our attention to the consideration of more prosaic but nevertheless, important questions having to do with the management of our local affairs.

And in view of the fact that rumors persist that we are to have an early provincial general election in this province, it is fitting to consider a possibility that could soon become a reality.

From a constitutional standpoint, there is no legal compulsion for an election this year. The five-year life expectancy of the present legislature does not expire until May of 1960. Indeed, able constitutional lawyers have argued that any Canadian provincial government could, if it were so minded, prolong its tenure of office for a considerable time after the expiration of the five-year period.

Whether or not this be true, no Canadian government has ever attempted to hold on to the reins of power beyond five years.

Certainly, there is no reason why the Matheson government in this province should attempt to do so. Only those politicians who fear the verdict of the people ever hold to power until the last moment. They realize that, by doing so, they merely make their defeat more certain, but since they regard their defeat as certain anyway, they feel they have nothing to lose, and possibly something to gain, in putting off the day of decision as long as possible.

The situation is wholly different as it affects the present provincial government. It has been in power during years in which the four Atlantic provinces have endured trying times and from which it has emerged much more successfully than any of the three other provinces. Only

one serious problem confronts it at present—that of assured and adequate transportation facilities across Northumberland Strait. On this question, Premier Matheson has endeared himself to the thoughtful men and women of this province by the courageous one-man fight he has waged against the indifference, or at least the apathy, of the federal government.

It is, therefore, most significant that our federal Conservative representatives have not only pooh-poohed all the Premier's suggestions concerning transportation but have continued to leave the people of this province largely in the dark respecting any improvement in our transportation service. Why?

The reason, of course, is obvious. Should the Premier decide to make an election announcement soon—and rumor has it that such an announcement may come at any time—the federal government, anxious to defeat our provincial government for purely selfish reasons, is almost certain to make a grand stand gesture by an announcement on our transportation problems. That announcement may be a double-barrel one. It may give details concerning the proposed new ferry and may also include a carefully worded statement on the causeway question. The purpose, of course, will be to induce the voters of this province to forget the courageous efforts made over the past year by Premier Matheson to stir the federal government to some action.

There is one consolation, however, that the supporters of our provincial government have. That is that the day has gone when any politician, even though he be of federal stature, can fool the voters of this province. They are as intelligent as he is. They know they have a good government. Not a perfect government, for perfection is not given to Man, but a government which, all things considered, has served this province and its people well.

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