N O V E M B E R

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Entwistle Stop

The west is as independent minded as it was in the thirties, though times are ever so much better. Alberta, at this moment in history, seems the most blessed of lands. It has oil and wheat and cattle; and Calgary and Edmonton plant new skyscrapers every spring.

But what is the point of being a farmer if you cannot have dark suspicions of the urban slickers in Ottawa, Toronto and Montreal? When the federal government strove to strengthen wheat prices by offering to pay Canadian farmers to not grow wheat back in 1971, Ed Uluschak of the Edmonton Journal pictured an independent farmer's response.

In August 1976 Alberta, along with British Columbia, asserted a similar independent streak during federal-provincial attempts to resolve an ancient anomaly by moving the basic law establishing Canada as a federal state — the British North America Act — from London to Ottawa. Before bringing the BNA Act home, Canadians have been trying to find a formula for its further amendment. Various methods have been suggested which would allow changes without the complete unanimity of the federal government and all the provinces. Alberta wants itself (and all other provinces) to have veto power, and the BNA Act problem remains unresolved.

"Entwistle's too proud to accept handouts from the government. He's not going to grow BARLEY instead!"



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