

subjects with the aid of which one could acquire this so-called higher education. While the minister and I attended the same school, I graduated by trickery—I got a medal for it, as a matter of fact. The minister, of course, was the sterling character that he is now, and did not take advantage of things as I did—for instance, crawling up a rain pipe to steal the examination papers in botany before I wrote them. And that was my last connection with botany; I do not mind telling you that.

I find now, however, that higher education has gone much further—and I use the expression “higher education” as being synonymous with university education. Now we find that degrees are given to women. The minute they learn that when they quit eating starches, fats and sugars they lose weight, that gives them a degree. I think, too, that we should give a special degree to those who discover that you can have a proper beefsteak only when it is broiled over charcoal. But that would be a new departure in higher education.

The thing that disturbs me at the present time, and which compels me to speak now, is that I now see a new departure in higher education, namely the game of football.

An hon. Member: The Calgary Stampeders.

Mr. Smith (Calgary West): I hear an echo from my left, from a supporter of mine and of the Calgary Stampeders. For several days I have sat here listening to congratulations, in the hope that no one would say what I am now going to say, and that is to congratulate and to welcome the more than ninety new members who have come to the House of Commons. I say that for a number of reasons, but principally because we welcome them to this so-called finest club in Canada. My old friend Carl Stewart from Yorkton, who spoke a moment ago, has now arrived in a club where he is absolutely welcome, and there are no conditions or anything of that kind to detract from full membership in this organization. So I am sure they will all be happy here.

As I said a moment ago, the new course of football has now been introduced in higher education. I say that because I come from a place called Calgary, where we have the best football club in Canada—and even if the Secretary of State for External Affairs had been here, I would assert that as a simple fact. We have the Grey Cup. I do not know of any better proof than winning the Grey Cup.

But returning to my subject of higher education: we had three very good lads out there named Pullar, Tomlinson and Wilmot, who formed a good part of our line. They were Calgary born, and splendid lads. But in this higher education McGill stole the

three of them from us two days before the season opened—and we had only two days to replace them.

You will realize, Mr. Chairman, that I am addressing my remarks to the first item in this department. Under the agricultural estimates we find a vote for research, which brings me back, right in the groove, so to speak, and in line with what the minister has in mind. I have seen a lot of football players; I saw some in Ottawa last Saturday. It appeared to me that they could not get any higher education in football; they are all quite clever. But while I was watching them it occurred to me that higher education may be obtained in various ways. Having seen them I thought the best method would be to bore a hole through their heads. That would not hurt them very much and you could then pour in the higher education through the hole, and God knows what might happen after that.

I know that there are many alumni of the old university of McGill here and I want to compliment them upon being the great protectors of amateurism. But the fact is that they stole three players from one club because they were able to pay them more money than we can. That is how we are being protected in this sport business. Then they came along and took another one who was the best kicker I ever saw. He was already getting higher education because he belonged to the university of Alberta.

I congratulate the alumni of McGill university on having raised money to make higher education available to poor boys who are not able to pay their way through college or whose parents are not able to pay for them. But the father of this boy could buy out the whole side of this House of Commons and have plenty of money left to live on the rest of his days. But they were willing to pay more for higher education than we can pay for football players. Perhaps that is a new idea. Perhaps it is an excellent thing. Dear old McGill! May their colours some day rise from the bottom of the heap to the top. I ask you to pass your judgment on these raiders of professional football clubs.

How do I attach all this to the agricultural estimates? Your guess will be just as good as mine. I notice in the estimates that a lot of money is to be spent for research. We all live from the soil; that is the basis of everything we have and do. I think if the minister were really put to it he could justify it. I have never known a man who could justify things as he can. I know that if he were really put to it he could find something in his estimates which would provide a new scheme instead of having to bore holes through their thick skulls. I know that he and his research staff