

MR. ERNEST MERCIER

Mr. Ernest Mercier, agrologist, was born at Rosaire, Montmagny County. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Georges Mercier and member of a family of thirteen living children. He went to grade school until the age of 15 years. He worked on the farm until 19 years of age when he began his classical studies. He went to three colleges: St. Victor de Tring (Beauce), Nicolet and Ste-Anne-de-la-Pocatière. After six years, he obtained his B.A. degree from Laval University in 1939.

In the fall of the same year, he entered the Agricultural School of Ste-Anne-de-la-Pocatière. During the second year of his studies he won the scholarship of the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire. In 1943 he obtained his B.S.A. degree in agricultural sciences with great honor from Laval University.

In June of the same year, he obtained a position from the Quebec Department of Agriculture with leave of absence during the school year to carry on post-graduate work in animal breeding, physiology, and genetics at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. He obtained from this institution his M.Sc.Agr. and his Ph.D. degrees (Doctor of Philosophy) in 1944 and 1946 respectively. He became, in 1944, a member of the Sigma XI Society whose purpose is to promote research work in science.

He spent a fourth year at Cornell to study special problems and to specialize in the application of artificial insemination for farm livestock.

From 1947 to 1950, he worked for the Department of Agriculture as animal husbandry officer in charge of the artificial breeding programme for the province. He organized the Quebec Artificial Breeding Centre at St. Hyacinthe.

In 1950, he went to the Lennoxville Experimental Farm. He was in charge of the Animal Husbandry Division until February 1952 when he was appointed Superintendent upon the retirement of Mr. J.A. Ste-Marie.

On July 1st 1960, he accepted work at Macdonald College, the Faculty of Agriculture of McGill University, as professor and chairman of the newly created Department of Animal Sciences.

On the 15th of August 1960, he became Deputy Minister of the Department of Agriculture and Colonization for Quebec.