

# Research Officers Form Vital Team

A team of research officers which might be likened to a cadre play an all-important role in the everyday operation of the Experimental Farm, Charlottetown.

This team is headed by the Superintendent, R.C. Parent, and includes G.B. Whiteside, soil surveyor; K.E. LeLachur, field surveyor; R.D. Crawford, animal genetics; R.B. MacLaren, cereal work; J.D.E. Sterling, plant genetics; J.W.G. Nicholson, animal husbandry; W.N. Black, supervisor of illustration stations; D.C. Munro, soil research; G.C. Warren, horticulture.

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Experimental

Farm it is interesting to review the careers of these men.

**R. C. PARENT**  
R.C. Parent was born at Douglas, York County, New Brunswick, and after attending public school graduated from the Fredericton High School, and later from Nova Scotia Agricultural College where he received the Governor General Medal for highest standing. In 1923 he received his B.S.A. Degree from Guelph College, and in 1924 his Master's Degree from Macdonald College. At Macdonald College he was the winner of the William C. Macdonald Scholarship.

He first came to Charlottetown

in 1927 and for ten years was Supervisor of Illustration Stations. In those days, commercial fertilizer was just beginning to be used extensively and many experiments were set out on the Illustration Station for the purpose of advising farmers on the best use of these materials. Mr. Parent was transferred to New Brunswick in 1937 where again for ten years he was in charge of Illustration Stations in that Province. Again many experiments were set out with commercial fertilizer and work was undertaken on soil conservation and land use. One interesting project which he conducted was the measuring of the silt load of the Saint John River in freshet season. The results of this experiment focused attention on the tremendous losses by erosion taking place

from hillside farms along the Saint John River and was the beginning of protective measures being undertaken by the Provincial Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Parent returned to Prince Edward Island in 1947 as Superintendent of the Experimental Farm. During the past twelve years there has been a rapid expansion in the size of farm, its staff and research projects under taken.

**G. B. WHITESIDE**  
G.B. Whiteside was born in Manchester, England, and came to Canada in 1914, settling in Ontario where he was engaged in farming until 1924, with the exception of a period of service in the Canadian Forces. He attended the Ontario Agricultural College from

which he received a Diploma in Agriculture in 1926, and was graduated from the University of Toronto in 1929 with the degree of B.S.A.

Following graduation Mr. Whiteside joined the staff of the Chemistry Division, Ontario Agricultural College and was engaged in Soil Survey work, and in 1933 served as agricultural research assistant with the Ontario Research Foundation. After joining the Canada Department of Agriculture, Experimental Farms Service in 1934, he was posted to Nova Scotia where he organized and conducted soil survey in that Province. In 1948 he was transferred to Prince Edward Island to undertake similar work. Since the completion of the Soil Survey of Prince Edward Island, he has been engaged in soil fertility research at the Experimental Farm, Charlottetown.

Mr. Whiteside is the Regional Director for the Atlantic Provinces on the National Council of the Agricultural Institute of Canada, he is a past president of the Prince Edward Island Branch and past president of the Federal-Provincial Advisory Council of Prince Edward Island. He is also a member of the Soil Science Society of Canada, Canadian Society of Agronomy and the International Soil Science Society.

**K. E. LELACHEUR**  
K.E. LeLachur was born in Gurnsey Cove, P.E.I. in 1930. He worked at the Experimental Farm Charlottetown in the summer as a student assistant while attending the Truro Agricultural College and Macdonald College. He received his B. Sc. (Agr.) degree from Macdonald College in 1952 and joined the staff of the Experimental Farm shortly afterwards. In 1954-55 he returned to Macdonald College for course



PART OF THE TEAM of professional personnel at the Charlottetown Experimental Farm is shown here, in a picture taken at a time when other members of the top group could not be included, due to holidays or other circumstances.

From left to right are, D. C. Munro, M. Sc. K. E. LeLachur, B. Sc., G. C. Warren, B. Sc., W. N. Black, B. Sc., R. B. MacLaren, and G. B. Whiteside, B. S. A.

Not shown are J. W. Nicholson, B. Sc., M. Sc., J. D. E. Sterling, B. S. A., M. Sc., W. A. Burns, and A. S. Humphrey, B. Sc.

work leading to a M. Sc. (Agr.) degree. He has completed an important project on the value of trace elements, particularly molybdenum, in red clover production as a further requirement for this degree.

Mr. LeLachur has worked on field husbandry and forage crops and is specializing on grasses and legume crops for hay and pasture.

**R. D. CRAWFORD**  
R.D. Crawford was born in Van-

cover and was raised in Saskatchewan. He attended primary schools in Blucher and Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and obtained his Senior Matriculation in Saskatchewan. Before entering University, he worked for a year at the Prairie Regional Laboratory of the National Research Council. He entered the University of Saskatchewan in 1951 and graduated in 1955 with the degree of Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, with Distinction. In the fall of 1955, he entered the Graduate School of Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, accepting the position of Assistant in Animal Genetics, and in 1957 obtained the degree of Master of Science. Thereafter, he worked for a short time at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa. Since coming to the Charlottetown Experimental Farm in January 1958, Mr. Crawford has been conducting research in the breeding and management of poultry and in the breeding of dairy cattle.

**J. D. E. STERLING**  
J.D.E. Sterling was born in Ottawa, Ontario, in 1923. He obtained his B.S.A. Degree from the Ontario Agricultural College in 1945 and his M. Sc. in plant genetics from the University of Minnesota in 1949. From 1945 to 1953, Mr. Sterling was in charge of cereal and forage crop investigations at the Experimental Farm Nappan, N.S. He was then transferred to the Experimental Farm at Charlottetown as project leader of cereal breeding research in the Atlantic Provinces. In 1958 he was awarded an Agricultural Institute of Canada Scholarship. While at Nappan, Mr. Sterling directed the work which led to the development of Scotian Oats.

**J. W. G. NICHOLSON**  
James W.G. Nicholson is Officer-in-Charge of Animal Nutrition and Breeding at the Experimental Farm, Charlottetown. He was born at Crapaud, P.E.I. and attended Prince of Wales College, Macdonald College, Quebec, and Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

He has been the recipient of a number of special prizes and scholarships. He was awarded the Hon. John Richard Prize on graduation from Prince of Wales College; the Anderson Prize at Macdonald College; the Eliza M. Jones Scholarship at Cornell; the A.I.C. Scholarship 1954-55 and the Henry Strong Denison Fellowship in Agriculture 1955-56. He obtained his Bachelor's Degree at McGill in 1951 and his Master's at Cornell in 1956 and expects to complete qualifications for his Doctor's Degree at Cornell in September.

Mr. Nicholson first worked as a student on the Experimental Farm in 1950 and was appointed Research Officer in 1951. He is

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