

New business journal rates Canadian companies

Report on Business 1000, an annual magazine that assesses the performance of Canadian companies, made its debut recently. The 240-page magazine serves as an authoritative reference for managers and investors — and as an introduction to evaluating corporate performance for newcomers to business analysis.

Articles by business writers highlight sectoral trends and profile some of Canada's most successful companies — and the people who run them.

The comprehensive statistical report on corporate Canada is based on data from the more than 2 000 companies listed on Canadian stock exchanges, compiled in the *Report on Business 1000* data base by the ROB Business Information Service.

Financial statistics, primarily from income statements and balance sheets covering the past five years, have been fed into the data base by financial analysts in the ROB Business Information Service. The service was formed two years ago to establish the data base and enhance the quality of information in the daily report on business carried in *The Globe and Mail*.

While *Report on Business 1000* focuses on the performance of shareholder-owned companies, it also contains selected information on Canada's largest private companies, Crown corporations and foreign-controlled banks.

Analysis of corporate performance is presented in three formats in the magazine. In-depth articles in the principal section com-

pare recent track records of larger companies by sector, and outline industry prospects for the following year. Two detailed statistical sections review latest year and five-year results for shareholder-owned companies.

In its rankings, *Report on Business 1000* measures profitability in two main ways — pre-tax return on capital, which is an important yardstick for managers, and after-tax return on equity, which is most valuable to stock market investors. Five-year statistics also illustrate corporate growth in profit, revenue and assets, while latest-year tabulations indicate corporate size and liquidity.

Kiwis for Canada?

Kiwi — the exotic green fruit from New Zealand — could be grown in Canada in the 1990s, if the results or preliminary tests are borne out.

Dr. Neil Miles of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food has been successfully experimenting with kiwis in greenhouses in the Niagara Peninsula. He first planted the fruit in 1981 inside a plastic greenhouse being used to grow peaches.

The kiwis have grown faster and yielded more fruit than they do in New Zealand. The Ontario vines averaged ten kilograms of fruit in 1983 and are expected to yield between 30 and 40 kilograms each this year. The growing costs have not been determined, but appear to be cheaper than for greenhouse tomatoes.

Despite the initial success of the experiment, Dr. Miles will not know whether kiwis are an economic proposition in Ontario until about 1990. They fetch a high price, but could be expensive to grow under Ontario conditions. The producer must pollinate each blossom by hand, a time-consuming, laborious operation. The vines are heavy and require horizontal trellises, similar to those used for hops.

The vines yield large quantities of fruit, but bear nothing for four or five years after planting, even in New Zealand. They do not mature until they are eight or ten years old.

Another problem is the extremely long growing season. The fruit is not ready until late November, even in a greenhouse in Ontario's warmest growing zone.

Although New Zealand is associated with kiwis around the world, the fruit originated in southern China. It was bred to grow under New Zealand conditions and proved so successful that growers in California, South Africa and Europe have started their own plantations.

Architectural award for Senegal hospital

The Montreal consulting firm of Blouin, Blouin et Associés and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) have been jointly awarded a prize for architectural excellence by the Order of Quebec Architects for the Albert Royer hospital in Dakar, Senegal.

The project, designed by the Montreal firm, was financed by a \$5.8-million contribution from CIDA.

The hospital, which provides both preventive care and treatment for Senegalese children, is also a teaching hospital for doctors and pediatricians.

The hospital complex is well suited to the Senegalese climate and culture. With its many inner courtyards, it is designed to facilitate ventilation and natural lighting. It has a "mothers' village" — four buildings to accommodate 64 mothers staying with their children while they are in hospital. This consideration for Senegalese conditions was a factor in the awarding of the prize to the hospital.

The hospital was named in honour of Dr. Albert Royer, a pediatrician at Ste-Justine hospital in Montreal, for his dedicated work in behalf of African children.



The Albert Royer hospital in Dakar, Senegal, is the winner of a prize for architectural excellence awarded by the Order of Quebec Architects.