

British Columbia and especially in the prairie provinces (Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba) where only four of the 45 constituencies returned Liberals. Survey results show that the party attracted substantial numbers of votes from almost all sectors except farmers.

Having won all but six of the 24 general elections since 1891, the Liberal Party has naturally built strong, politically advantageous ties with most parts of the Canadian economy. Traditionally, it has tended to espouse centralizing policies in its dealings with the provinces. Recently it dramatically increased the Government's participation in the economic life of the country with the 1975 decision to impose wage and price controls.

(Next week the New Democratic and Social Credit parties will be featured.)

Restaurants benefit from hydroponic herb-growing system

The hydroponic Herb Market, manufactured by Applied Hydroponics of Canada Inc., Montreal, allows cooks to have home grown, garden-fresh herbs at their fingertips throughout the year. Some gourmet chefs consider it essential — gastronomists certainly enjoy the results.

The Herb Market enables chefs to prepare dishes that previously were impossible because of the limited commercial supply of fresh herbs.

Designed to occupy a minimum of space, the food service equipment can yield 567 to 1,701 grams (20 to 60 ounces) of fresh herbs every week.

Award-winning chefs Albert Schnell of the Queen Elizabeth Hotel in Montreal and Jurgen Mehlhorn of the Montreal Airport Hilton are enthusiastic proponents of the system.

Says Chef Schnell: "There is no substitute for fresh herbs. You feel the difference. Once a chef has tried a hydroponic herb-growing system, he'd never give it up."

No weeding

Because hydroponic gardening requires no soil, it is an extremely clean system which needs no tilling, weeding or pest control.

Instead of soil, plants grow in a gravel-like material that is kept wet with a constantly recirculated nutrient solution of water and minerals pumped through hosing from the bottom half of each tub.



Albert Schnell of Montreal's Queen Elizabeth Hotel, snips some fresh sorrel from his garden to use in a new salmon recipe.

Overhead adjustable fluorescent lamps provide the exact light spectrum for optimum growth and continuous harvest year-round.

Plants grow to maturity more quickly and remain productive; each day, the cook snips off what is needed and the plant continues growing.

The system, which is economical to operate, pays for itself in approximately six months. It is marketed in Canada and the United States by Applied Hydroponics of Canada Inc.

(From Canada Courier, Vol. 16, No. 8.)

Science news service in Asia

An experiment to set up a science news service in Asia was both a success or failure, depending on your point of view, according to Mac Laing, a Canadian journalist who participated in the effort for two years.

Mr. Laing said the venture was successful because 200 newspapers and other media in seven languages used the stories, and 300 articles were written. The failure was that generally they did not pay for the service.

Mr. Laing was speaking at a seminar at the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in Ottawa. A professor of journalism at the University of Western Ontario, he outlined his association with the Press Foundation of Asia (PFA) and its science news service. IDRC sponsored the project in conjunction with the PFA.

The science articles formed part of the

"Depthnews Service" of the PFA. Asian writers concerned about the calibre of journalism in Asia formed the PFA ten years ago and have promoted better coverage of development-related events by training journalists and setting up the Depthnews Service. PFA asked IDRC to find a North American journalist to assist with the science component of the service. IDRC chose Mr. Laing, a former science writer with the *Toronto Telegram* and writer-editor for the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome.

Mr. Laing, who worked at the PFA office in Manila, drew on a network of 11 correspondents in New Delhi, Colombo, Tokyo, Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur. The stories covered a wide range of topics from health to agriculture to disasters to nuclear technology.

The effect of the service remains to be assessed. It is difficult to determine why people buy newspapers, he said. Mr. Laing commented that a 3,000-word story on leprosy was printed in its entirety. Normally, he said, such a long article would be pared down. He never knew if the article was being used on its own merit or "through madness on the part of the editor".

He noted that a readership survey was necessary. He knew the articles were read by the "elite" — the scientists and development workers. But he doubted if people in general could buy newspapers.

The service continues to thrive under the management of a young Philippino journalist hired to take over after Mr. Laing's departure.

(From Development Directions, January/February 1979 issue.)

Loan helps India's farmers

The Canadian International Development Agency will lend \$15 million interest-free to India to help in a massive program to improve production. Most of the money will finance small-scale irrigation works, said the announcement from CIDA.

Payment is due over 50 years, beginning only after the first ten years.

The loan brings Canada's total assistance to India over the past three years to more than \$175 million.

CIDA also announced it would supply \$10-million worth of material to El Salvador for that country's hydro and geothermal power system.