

## Radar system probes icy waters

Canadian Astronautics Ltd., an Ottawa high-technology company, has landed a \$2.3-million government contract that it says will be a stepping-stone to further business throughout the world.

The new contract calls for Canadian Astronautics to build a radar system for Environment Canada's ice reconnaissance plane, which provides information on ice patterns and blockages to such users as Canadian Coast Guard icebreakers, drilling rigs and other vessels in ice-infested waters.

The radar system, called a side-looking airborne radar, will enable its operators to look 100 kilometres on each side of the plane, a much wider range than older visual and technical systems allow.

The radar will also be able to "see" through clouds and operate day or night in all weather conditions. This feature is particularly important for operating during the Arctic winter.

"We're glad we have proved we can handle a challenge such as this," said vice-president Michael Stott. "We see this contract as a stepping-stone to an expansive international market."

## Broadcasting pioneer dies

Graham Spry, an award-winning journalist, diplomat and oil company executive, died recently at his Ottawa home of an apparent heart attack. He was 83.

Mr. Spry, who ventured onto the domestic and international scene as both a news-maker and a news-breaker, served as chairman of the Canadian Broadcasting League from 1968-1973. In 1972, he was presented with the John Drainie Award for his distinguished contribution to broadcasting. Called "the father of Canadian broadcasting" by Prime Minister Trudeau, a \$1-million foundation honouring Mr. Spry was set up in 1981.

Founder and first president in the 1930s of the Canadian Radio League, Graham Spry was a life-long advocate of public broadcasting. Until recently, he remained active at licensing and policy hearings of the Canadian Radio-television



Graham Spry

Canapress

## "Tougher-than-steel" rope lassos world sales



Vice-president Charles Plaxton with map. Sales have reached about 25 foreign markets.

Pilots in the United States Navy depend — literally — on wire rope made by a company in Hamilton, Ontario. So do tourists taking elevator rides to the top of the Toronto's CN Tower.

Greening Donald Co. Ltd. is one of Canada's most aggressive exporters. A map of the world in the company's head office identifies about 25 foreign markets by means of lines that radiate from Hamilton. They seem to extend to every corner of the globe — except eastern Europe. "But we plan to be moving in there soon," vice-president and general manager Charles Plaxton hastens to tell visitors. Already, exports account for some 25 per cent of annual sales, now in excess of \$50 million.

### First needle factory

The company's lines of ancestry go back to 1492, when an Englishman, Christopher Greening, opened the first needle factory in France. A descendant, Benjamin, came to Canada in 1858 and established the country's first manufacturer of wire rope, cloth and screens. The Greening Company was amalgamated with Donald Ropes and Wire Cloth in 1970. Today, Greening Donald has six plants in Ontario and one in South Plainfield, New Jersey.

For many years the company has supplied the sophisticated wire rope assemblies for launching and landing aircraft on US Navy carriers. But a dramatic expansion in other export markets has been achieved in recent years thanks largely, says Mr. Plaxton, to a product called PFV (plastic filled valley). This is wire rope filled with a sealing of thermo-

plastic — to fashion, as the company slogan describes it, a rope that is tougher than steel. It has a durability 50 to 100 per cent higher than that of conventional wire rope.

International tests on elevator cables have determined that Greening's wire rope is of the highest quality available. Greening wire ropes — conventional and PFV — are now used in oil drilling operations from the western Atlantic Ocean to the Far East, in mines from Norway to the Philippines, and in forests from Austria to Kenya.

But while wire rope is its mainstay, the company has a wide range of products.

### Sugar refining

Greening Donald wire cloth screens are used in sugar refining in Cuba and Venezuela. Closer to home, its perforated metal panels make it possible for Shakespeare buffs to hear a stage whisper from the back row of the Stratford Festival Theatre.

Charles Plaxton has home markets especially in mind these days. Foreign manufacturers recently have increased their share of Canadian wire rope sales and are also busy in the perforated metal business. "It is vital," Mr. Plaxton says, "that we continue to address these challenges in import replacement."

Meanwhile, the company sees exciting possibilities for a revolutionary new Greening product which was unveiled recently. It is a "wire" rope made entirely of synthetic fibre, especially adaptable to underwater applications such as sub-sea mooring. It, too, is as strong as steel.

(Article from Ontario Business News.)

and Telecommunications Commission.

A Rhodes scholar in the 1920s, Graham Spry was a journalist, soldier, anthropologist and assistant to British statesman Sir Stafford Cripps.

In the early Thirties, Mr. Spry and

Alan Plaunt of Ottawa helped establish the national broadcasting system through the league, which had support of 68 newspapers. They were instrumental in getting legislation passed to set up the CBC in 1936.