

## Island declared international site

St. Croix Island (or Docket's Island), situated in the middle of the St. Croix River has been declared an international island and will be administered jointly by Canada and the United States.

The St. Croix River, which divides New Brunswick from Maine along the southern edge, was declared the boundary between New Brunswick and Maine by a treaty in 1783. The island at that time was considered part of the United States because of its location in the U.S. side of the river.

St. Croix Island, however, is considered to have more historical significance for Canadians. It was on the island in June 1604 that Sieur de Monts and Samuel de Champlain started the first permanent French settlement in North America. During the following harsh winter, the colonists were cut off from their main-land wood supply by ice floes moving in and out with the tides. In addition, many contracted scurvy and by the end of the winter, 35 in the colony of 79 had died.

St. Croix Island was declared a U.S. national landmark a few years ago by the U.S. government. However, in 1979, New Brunswick's Acadians, celebrating the three-hundred-and-seventy-fifth anniversary of their founding, had to travel to U.S. soil to visit the site of what they called "the founding of Canada".

In addition to being the first French settlement in North America, St. Croix was also the site of the first European settlement in North America, north of Florida.

## Eldorado plans spending increase

Eldorado Nuclear Limited, a Crown corporation which mines and refines uranium and produces nuclear fuels, will spend \$218 million this year on several new ventures.

The capital budget of the corporation, which was recently approved by the federal Cabinet, reflects an increase of 63 per cent over spending in 1981.

The corporation will spend \$87 million on the construction of a new uranium refinery at Blind River, Ontario. The plant, with a refinery capacity of 18 000 tonnes a year of uranium ore, is expected to be completed in 1983 at a cost of \$152 million.

### Addition to plant

In addition, the corporation expects to spend \$44.9 million on an addition to its conversion plant in Port Hope, Ontario, which transforms the refined uranium to nuclear-grade material. The expansion is to be completed late next year at an estimated cost of \$106 million to meet the increased refinery plant capacity.

Eldorado still requires approval from the Atomic Energy Control Board before construction can begin this year at the Port Hope plant.

Key Lake uranium mine in Saskatchewan, which is due to open in 1983, will receive \$59.3 million. Eldorado holds 16.6 per cent interest in the Key Lake project through a subsidiary, Eldor Resources. The majority shareholder is Uranium Mineral Development Corporation, a provincial agency.

## Job insurance for executives

"Careerguard", North America's first executive job insurance plan has been started by Gestas Incorporated of Montreal.

The plan, available through most insurance brokers, guarantees an executive full salary for up to two years after he has been dismissed from his company.

The career protection plan, according to a Gestas spokesman, will afford fired executives at least an element of dignity — through financial stability — after they have been fired.

### Specialized skills required

Being an executive used to be a reasonably secure position," a Gestas spokesman said, "but not any more. Companies are looking for specialized skills from their executives. When they've picked those skills clean, they now toss out the executive."

Recent Statistics Canada figures show that executive firings are now almost three times the rate they were in 1975.

According to the firm, executives have become the least mobile of the labour force and are at a distinct disadvantage in coping with job dismissal.

The new insurance plan which also provides executive relocation consulting services, is available only to those in the \$25 000 to \$100 000 a year salary bracket.

Premiums are based on 1.3 per cent of salary and it pays up to six months salary for policy holders in their first year, a year's salary for those in the plan from one to five years, and two year's pay for policy holders of five years and over.

## Canadian firm helps build British robot

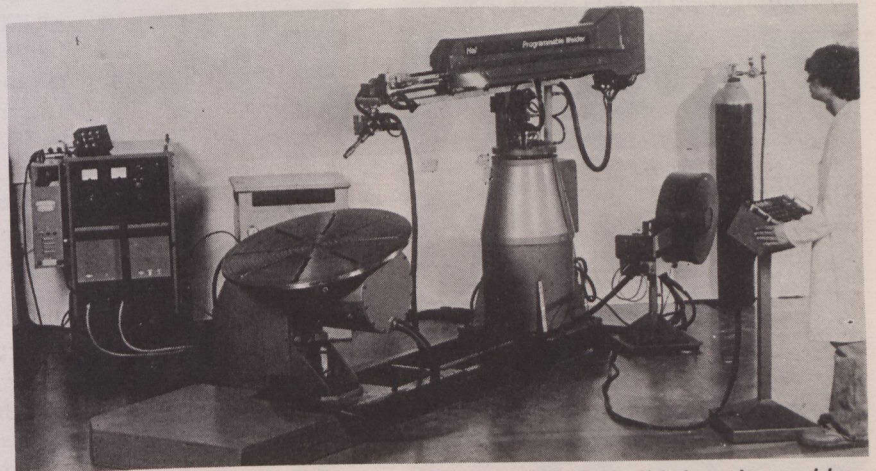
A Canadian company has signed an agreement to help build a British-designed robot.

Harber Manufacturing Limited of Fort Erie signed the agreement with Hall Automation Limited of Watford, England and members of the GEC group. The agreement also covers sales and distribution rights for the equipment in Canada and the United States.

Harber Manufacturing, which makes wood-burning stoves and aluminium boats will add North American welding components, hydraulics, and workpiece positioners to the torch manipulator and system 90 microprocessor control console supplied by Hall Automation. About two-thirds of each unit's value will represent Ontario content.

The robot welder operates in a manner that allows fast, accurate seam welding of sheet metal to take place. Once programmed, the unit works automatically and it can be applied in any batch or mass production welding plant with considerable increases in productivity.

(An article from Ontario Bulletin, dated February-March 1982.)



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