the mission members to familiarize themselves with specific needs and requirements and to make known to the trade the wide range and diversity of automotive parts and equipment available from Canada.

The three largest importers of Canadian automotive parts have traditionally been the United States, Australia and South Africa, and the greater part of Canada's exports of automotive parts have gone to these countries. In recent years, however, the industry has been steadily increasing the range and quantity of its production to the point where it is believed to be competitive in other export areas.

The Canadian Automotive Parts Trade Mission to Europe is the first of 18 Canadian trade and industrial investigation missions planned by the Department of Trade and Commerce for the fiscal year 1963-64. These missions will be sent to 24 countries on four continents.

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IRRADIATED POTATOES FOR ARCTIC

Two tons of potatoes, irradiated by gamma rays from Cobalt-60 to keep them from sprouting and thus to retard spoilage, will be shipped this year to remote weather stations in the Canadian Arctic. The shipment is the second to be made in a continuing experiment by the Department of Transport, in conjunction with Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, in the use of irradiated vegetables as a morale builder and a waste-and-money-saving step in areas where food-transportation costs and storage are a problem.

SPROUTING PREVENTED

Last year the first such shipment, of 500 pounds, was sent to Eureka, the weather station on Ellesmere Island some 750 miles from the North Pole, operated jointly by the United States and Canada. Kept under good conditions of temperature and ventilation, the potatoes lasted out the year with almost no spoilage. Untreated potatoes, or potatoes protected by other forms of anti-rot treatment, would have spoiled in a fraction of that time. Though rot can develop from other causes, such as cuts and bruises inflicted in shipping, most serious troubles arise when the potatoes begin to sprout. This causes them to soften and shrink, and the moisture in the sprouted shoots quickly causes decay to start. Contributing to this is the fact that such supplies, almost all of which are sent by ship in summer, must be drawn from the crop of the previous summer and are nearly a year old when shipped.

Because of the greatly increased cost of shipping such heavy cargo by air, compared to the cost of shipping by sea, only very limited quantities are sent in this manner. In the main, potatoes are sent north in processed "instant-flake" form, because of its storage and shipment advantages.

Natural potatoes are prized by cooks and personnel in isolated posts because they can be cooked in many ways and thus provide variety in menus.

Transport Department officials are working with the Forest Products Laboratory of the Department of Forestry to devise cartons in which the potatoes can be packed, treated and shipped without repeated handling. These will be placed in racks that turn, like the seats on a small ferris wheel, round the Cobalt-60 from which gamma rays emanate. The rays, though they halt sprouting, do not contaminate the potatoes.

Irradiation of potatoes to stop sprouting is in the process of being adopted by the potato-growing industry in Canada. The Department of Transport is the first Canadian Government agency to use the process in its catering operations. The Department has to provide foodstuffs for some 4,000 persons, consisting of staff members and their families in remote and isolated parts of Canada. The indications are that a substantial reduction in waste will be realized and that increased quantities of potatoes in their natural state will be available in future to personnel in the Arctic and other isolated areas.

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SALES & PURCHASES OF SECURITIES

Again, during February, there was a net capital export, amounting to $8.4 million, from transactions in outstanding securities with all foreign countries, but it was slightly below the figure of $9.9 million in January. Canadians sold $1.6 million of foreign securities but repurchased $10.0 million of Canadian issues.

Geographically, there was again a net purchase balance with Britain, which increased by $0.6 million to $4.6 million, but reversals occurred in the direction of net flows both with the United States and with other overseas countries. There was a $0.2-million net sale to the United States succeeding $6.4-million purchases in January, and a capital export of $4.0 million to other countries after a $0.5-million inflow in January.

BRINGING BACK

The repurchase of Canadian corporation stocks held abroad, $4.0 million each from the United States and Britain and $3.6 million from other countries, has again been the main factor responsible for the net capital outflow. This totalled just over half the $22.9-million figure for the January net trade in such securities, but the much smaller balance of trade in Canadian bond issues, netting sales of $1.7 million as against sales in the earlier month of $14.0 million, resulted in a $10.0 million outflow for the repatriation of foreign-held Canadian securities.

Canadians increased their investments in foreign stocks by $3.0 million, but relinquished $4.6 million of their foreign bond holdings, mostly of United States Government bonds to United States residents, leaving a net repatriation of $1.6 million of their foreign-security holdings.

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