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103. The natural resources of Canada are her forests, her farms, her fisheries and her minerals.

104. The forest wealth of the country is very great. The forests formerly extended in an almost unbroken stretch from the Atlantic Ocean to the head of Lake Superior, a distance of 2,000 miles. The great plains of the North-west have always, within the memory of man, been sparsely timbered, but on the Pacific slopes of the Rocky Mountains down to the shores of the ocean there are mammoth trees that can compare favourably with the growth of any region on the globe. From the earliest days of its occupation by the French the forest wealth of the country washed by the St. Lawrence engaged the attention of the Government of France, who saw therein vast resources available for their naval yards. They drew from these forests large numbers of masts and spars, and issued stringent regulations for the preservation of the standing oak. When the country was first ceded to Great Britain, but little attention was paid at first to its vast timber supply, owing to the fact that almost the whole of the Baltic trade was carried in British bottoms and that the timber of northern Europe provided an unfailing and convenient return freight for the shipping thus engaged. When, however, the troubles of the Napoleonic era