

**UNIT – IV: Cool temperate Regions – West European, Lawrence, Prairie - Situation, Extent, Climate, Natural vegetation, Flora and fauna, Natural resources, Human life and Economic development.**

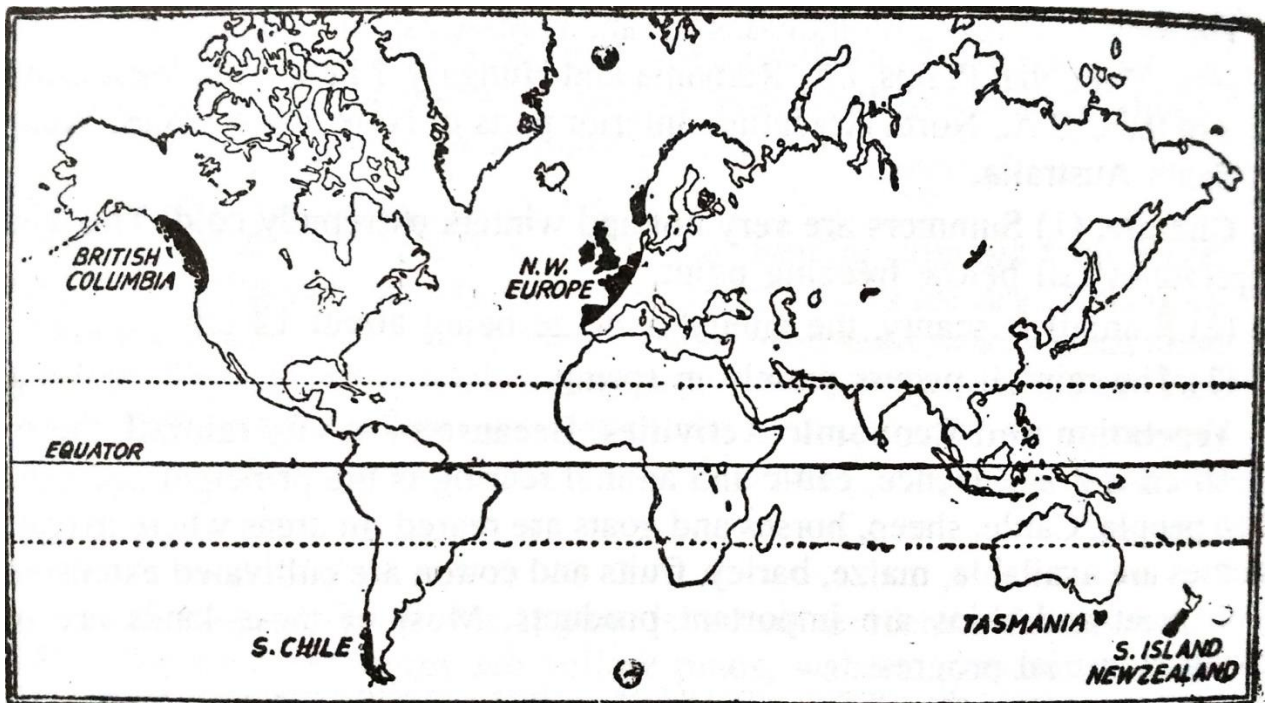
## COOL TEMPERATE REGIONS

- (A) COOL TEMPERATE **OCEANIC REGION OR WEST EUROPEAN** TYPE
- (B) COOL TEMPERATE **EAST MARGINAL REGION OR ST. LAWRENCE** TYPE
- (C) COOL TEMPERATE **GRASSLAND REGION OR PRAIRIE** TYPE

### (A) COOL TEMPERATE OCEANIC REGION OR WEST EUROPEAN TYPE

#### Situation and Extent

- This region lies between the latitudes  $42^{\circ}$  and  $60^{\circ}$ , both to the north and south of the equator, on the western margins of the land masses.
- It includes British Isles, France, West Germany, Holland, Belgium, Denmark and the southern parts of Norway and Sweden in north-western Europe; British southern Chile in South America, and Tasmania and the South Island of New Zealand.



*Cool Temperate Oceanic Region or West European Type*

#### Climate

(1) This region has warm summers and cool winters. The summer temperatures rarely exceed 16°C, while in winters the temperatures are around 7°C.

(2) Rainfall occurs throughout the year, the average annual rainfall being between 50 cm. and 75 cm. However, places along the west coast of France and British Isles may have even 200 cm. of rainfall. Fog and mist are common in all seasons.

(3) Weather conditions change constantly under the influence of winds of the temperate zone which are weak and do not contain much moisture, and which also blow in whirls causing mild cyclones and anticyclones.

## Vegetation

✚ Natural vegetation is forests.

✚ *Deciduous forests* grow in the warm lowlands. They include trees like pine, oak, maple, elm and beech.

✚ *Coniferous forests* containing trees like pine, fir and spruce grow luxuriantly in the cooler and damper uplands. These coniferous forests inhabit many fur-bearing animals whose skins provide valuable source of income to the people living in these forests.

✚ In the eastern part of this region, where the rainfall is moderate, the vegetation changes into temperate grass. This grass is short, soft and juicy and makes good feed for domestic animals.

## Animal Life

- Most of the forests in this region have been cleared and as such the wild animal life has become extinct.
- Domestic animals are, however, reared in large numbers particularly in the eastern parts where temperate grasses grow. Domestic animals include horses, cattle, sheep, goat, and pigs. Cattle are reared for both milk-and meat, while sheep are reared more for meat than for wool, Cattle and sheep-rearing is developed as organised industry.

## Human Life

- ✓ The mild temperate climate of this region is very healthy and invigorating for man.
- ✓ People are strong, well built, energetic and hard working.

- ✓ They are highly civilised and economically advanced.
- ✓ Nearness to sea has made them seafaring, bold and adventurous.

### **Economic Development**

- ❖ In those parts of this region where forests are still largely uncleared, such as in British Columbia, Southern Chile, Southern New Zealand and Scandinavia, people are engaged in lumbering and forest industries. Manufacture of wood pulp, paper, wood alcohol, matches, toys and furniture has developed and makes valuable contribution to the foreign trade of many countries.
- ❖ Agriculture is practised in those areas where forests have been cleared. Wheat, barley, oats, rye, potatoes, beet and vegetables are the principal cultivated crops.
- ❖ Fishing is another important industry and large sections of the population are engaged in fishing. This region contains two major fishing grounds of the world, viz., the Dogger Banks in the North Sea and the English Channel, highly suited for coastal fishing and the fishing grounds of the North-East Pacific suited for deep-sea fishing. Thus all the countries of Western Europe have become leading fishing nations in the world.

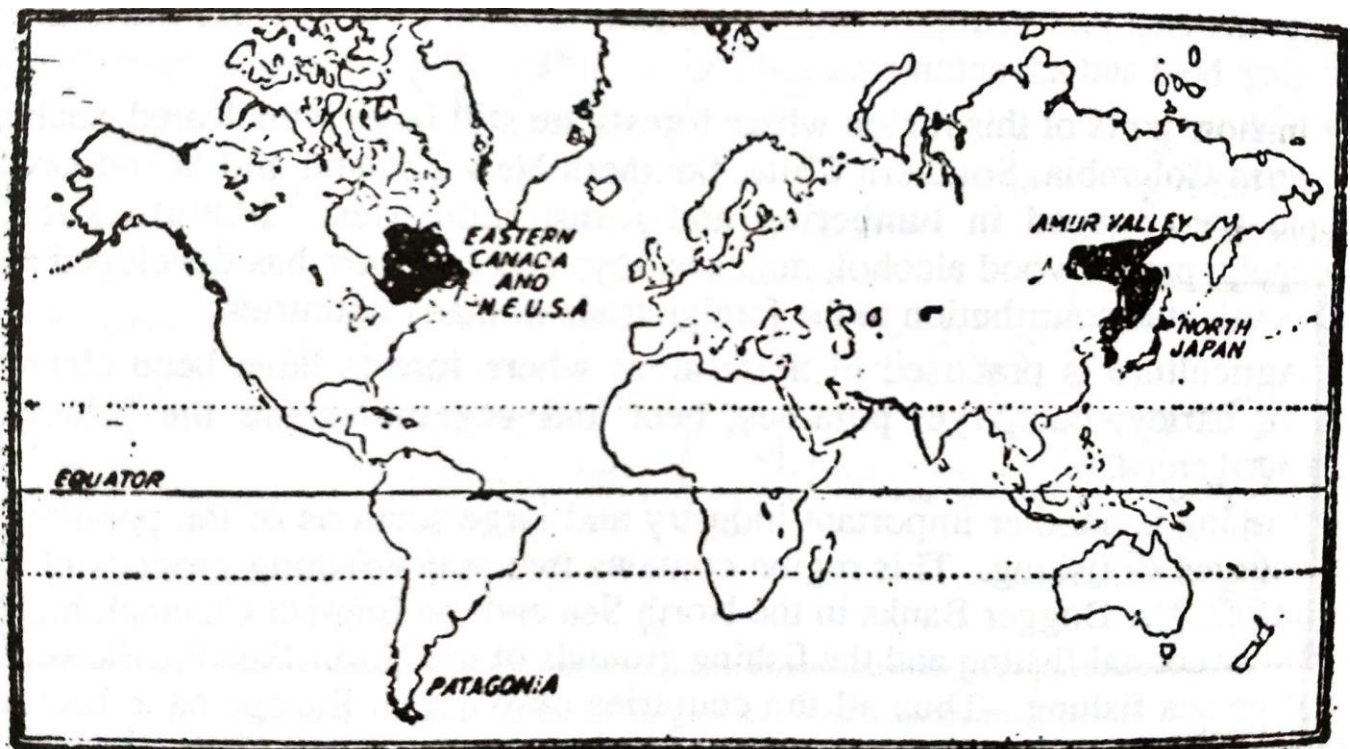
### **Mineral resources**

- This region is also very rich in minerals particularly coal and iron.
- Gold is found in British Columbia and New Zealand.
- Availability of minerals, suitable climate, nearness to sea and excellent transport facilities have led to the industrial and commercial development of this region.
- Industries like iron and steel, textiles, engineering, and shipbuilding are highly developed in NorthWestern Europe, Australia and New Zealand.
- Southern Chile and British Columbia are comparatively backward. This region is densely populated because of vast economic opportunities and may be called the manufacturing region of the world.
- The standard of living of the people is fairly high.
- Foodstuffs and raw materials constitute the principal items of import, while manufactures are mainly exported.

## (B) COOL TEMPERATE EAST MARGINAL REGION OR ST. LAWRENCE TYPE

### Situation and Extent

This region lies between the latitudes  $42^{\circ}$  and  $60^{\circ}$  to the north of equator, along the eastern margins of the land masses. It is confined to the Northern Hemisphere only, as the land masses of the Southern Hemisphere are too narrow for such climatic conditions. The only place in the Southern Hemisphere included in this region South-East Argentina. It includes the Amur Valley, Armenia, Korea, Northern Japan, St. Lawrence basin (Eastern Canada and Labrador, South of the Tundras, East of the Prairies), Newfoundland, the U.S.A. (south east and higher Appalachian slopes) and south-east Argentina.



*Cool Temperate East Marginal Regions or St. Lawrence Type*

### Climate

- (1) This region has short mild summers and long severely cold winters. July temperature is about  $21^{\circ}$ , while January temperature is about  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The rivers and harbours are generally icebound during winter.
- (2) Rainfall is moderate and occurs mostly in summer. Winters are marked by heavy snowfall. Cloudiness is common in all seasons.
- (3) Weather changes are frequent.

## **Vegetation and Animal Life**

Forests, both coniferous and deciduous, grow abundantly in this region. Pine, spruce, fir and oak are the principal trees, These forests also inhabit many fur-bearing animals like elk, mink and wolves. Dairy cattle are reared in north-eastern parts of North America.

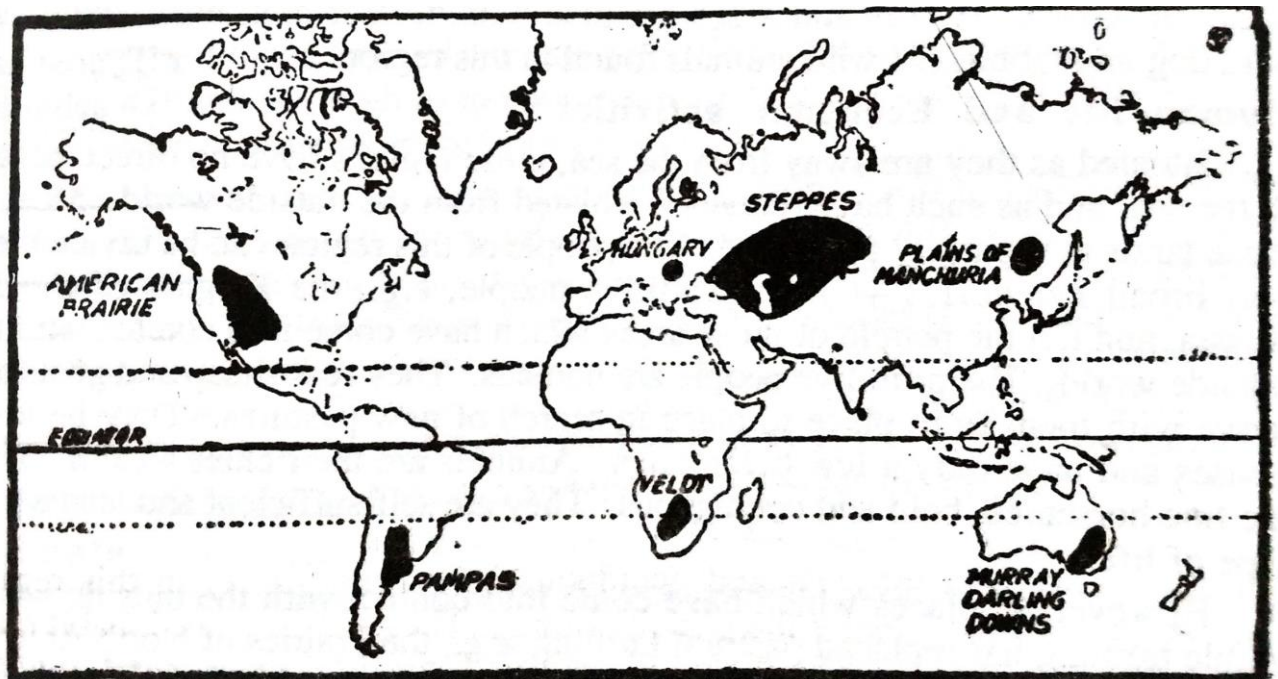
## **Human Life and Economic Activities**

- Population in this region is generally sparse due to extremely cold winters. However, in areas where forests have been cleared larger numbers of people live. Lumbering is an important occupation in the north-eastern part of the U.S.A., in the St. Lawrence Valley of Canada, in eastern Siberia and in Hokkaido in Japan. Many industries like wood-pulp, paper and furniture are developed on forest products. Canada is the main producer of paper and newsprint.
- Fishing is another important occupation. Two of the main fishing grounds of the world—north eastern coasts of North America (Grand Banks and Georges Banks) and North China Sea and Japan Sea are located here, and offer vast Opportunities for fishing. In cleared areas agriculture is practised. Potatoes, oats and barley are grown on inferior soils in North eastern America, where agriculture is @ minor activity. In China, Japan and in the Amur Valley of the erstwhile U.S.S.R. where agriculture is an important activity, soya beans, wheat, maize, groundnuts, barley, rapeseed and flax are chiefly cultivated. Dairying is also developed along the hill slopes which provide rich pastures,
- Mining is also an important activity. Some parts of this region contain valuable minerals—iron ore near the Lake Region, gold and copper in Canada, and coal in the U.S.A. and eastern Siberia are the principal minerals found in this region. Manufacturing industries are also developed in some parts of this region. Canada, the U.S.A and Japan have well developed manufacturing industries, like engineering and electrical industries. However, the resources are not fully developed in some parts of Canada, in Korea and in eastern Siberia. Hence, there are good opportunities for future economic development of this region.

## (C) COOL TEMPERATE GRASSLAND REGION OR PRAIRIE TYPE

### Situation and Extent

- ✚ This region lies in the interior of the continents far away from the sea between the latitudes  $42^{\circ}$  and  $60^{\circ}$  both to the north and south of equator, It includes
- ✚ central parts of Russia and Siberia ;
- ✚ central plains of the U.S.A. and Canada ;
- ✚ the whole of northern half of Argentina,
- ✚ Uruguay and Southern Paraguay in South America ;
- ✚ a considerable part of Central Asia ;
- ✚ the basin of Murray-Darling rivers in the western part of New South Wales in Australia, and the Plateaus of South Africa (though situated along  $35^{\circ}$  South, but having similar conditions due to altitude).



*Cool Temperature Grassland Regions*

### Climate

- (i) The climate is typically continental type and is marked by great extremes. Summers are short and warm to hot, while winters are long and severely cold. The summer temperature may go up to  $38^{\circ}\text{C}$  while in winter, the temperature may fall to (minus)  $-40^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

(ii) Rainfall is distributed throughout the year with the maximum in summer, particularly in early summer. In winter, there is snowfall. Rainfall is moderate to scanty and varies between 15 cm. and 40 cm.

(iii) In summer, the days are very long, while in winter the nights are very long. This helps in the quick ripening of crops and a quick growth of other Vegetation in summer.

## **Vegetation**

- In winter, the whole ground is bare of vegetation. But in summer, the Whole area is covered with temperate grass in a very short period of time. The grass is short, soft and juicy and makes very good feed for grass-eating animals.
- These grasslands are known as the Steppes in Russia, Prairies in North America, Pampas in South America, Downs in Australia, and Veldt in South Africa, These temperate grasslands are treeless regions and for miles together there is nothing but grass.

## **Animal Life**

This region is the greatest rearer of herbivorous animals. Cattle, sheep and goats are reared in large numbers. Cattle are reared in wet and rich grasslands, while sheep and goats are reared in drier and poorer regions. Ostrich is common in South Africa. Horses and asses are also reared. Caribou, bison, wild ass, wild dog and rabbits are wild animals found in this region.

## **Human life and Economic activities**

Situated as they are away from the sea, these regions have no direct access to the sea, and as such have remained isolated from the outside world. Most of these lands are sparsely populated.

The people of this region can be divided into two broad categories—

(i) **The primitive people**, e.g., the Kirghiz of Central Russia, and

(ii) The people of those areas which have come into **contact with the outside world**.

- The primitive people are nomads. They rear sheep and goats and move with them from place to place in search of new pastures. They build no houses and have only a few belongings. Animals are their

chief wealth. They are fine horsemen, bold and courageous. They are self-sufficient and lead a pure type of life.

- However, in places which have come into contact with the outside world, arable farming has replaced pastoral farming, e.g., the Prairies of North America are now one of the biggest producers of wheat in the world. Suitable climate, fertile soil and vast rolling plains have made this region a great centre of world farming. Due to large holdings, agriculture is mechanised and extensive and thus this region produces enormous quantities of temperate crops, particularly wheat. As local requirements are limited these regions have a large exportable surplus and have become the granaries of the world. The Prairies of North America produce wheat ; the Pampas of Argentina produce wheat, barley, rye and oats ; the Downs of Australia produce wheat, barley and sugar-beet ; and Veldts of South Africa produce wheat, sugar-beet and barley, mainly for local consumption.
- Cattle and sheep rearing is common in drier areas unsuited for wheat cultivation. Cattle are reared in southern parts of Steppes and Prairies, and in the Plate River region of Argentina, while sheep are largely reared in the northern parts of Steppes and Prairies, and in Australia. This region is also a great exporter of meat, dairy products, wool and hides.
- Manufacturing industries are few related to agriculture. Flour milling and sugar-manufacturing industries are common.

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