

values, which are considerably lower than they could have sold at last winter. Many of the farmers, however, were forced to hold, owing to their inability to get their wheat threshed sooner in proper condition. A considerable portion of the wheat now marketing is therefore from recent threshing.

The producers were so led into the belief of high prices, on account of the great prevalence of short crop literature last fall, that the values which have ruled on this crop, and especially of late, seem very unsatisfactory to them. The fact is, as THE COMMERCIAL maintained all along, that there was and is no shortage of breadstuffs in the world's supply for the crop year of 1891. The crop year is now fast nearing its close, with abundance of wheat in sight, and larger reserve stocks in the United States, to be carried over to the crop of 1892, than were available a year ago. Already there are predictions of a shortage of bread grains for 1892, but there appears to be no good reason yet to consider these reports at all seriously.

In this connection a few comparisons of prices may prove interesting. During the month of May at Chicago, the highest price touched for regular No. 2 wheat, June option, was 84½ cents; the highest price during May, 1891, for the same grade and option was \$1.07½; highest May, 1890, 99 cents; highest May, 1889, 84½ cents; highest May 1888, 90½ cents; highest May 1887, 90 cents. Lowest price for June option at Chicago, during May last 80½ cents; lowest May 1891, 98½ cents; lowest May 1890, 89½ cents; lowest May 1889, 77½ cents; lowest May 1888, 82 cents; lowest May 1887, 83 cents. This shows that the price at Chicago during May this year has ranged from 18½ to 22½ cents lower than during May of last year. With all the talk of high values, the price at Chicago has been lower during May this year than in any year for the past six years, except in 1889, when the range was ½ to 3 cents lower.

All other markets show similar conditions to that of Chicago. The following from the Liverpool *Corn Trade Review* of May 24 will show prices on the other side of the Atlantic on the date given, compared with prices a year ago:

	May 24	Year ago
Native Wheat (impl. avg.) per qr. ....	51/6	39/6
No. 1 Cali, per qr. ....	36/-	44/8
Australian, per qr. ....	36/-	44/8
No. 1 Cali in Liverpool, per cental. ....	7/4	8/8½
No. 1 Bombay, per cental. ....	7/2	8/5
Paris, current month, per qr. ....	42/-	52/3
Berlin, current delivery, per qr. ....	40/9	53/-
Pesth, M. June delivery, per qr. ....	50/1	37/6

It is not necessary to follow the comparison further. The result should show the producers of Manitoba the folly of placing any faith in irresponsible forecasts of prices, some of these forecasts being prepared by speculators with the object of misleading the people.

A leading agricultural paper in the United States, which imbibed the short crop theory in an acute form, denounced the leading commercial journals because they refused to support its views. It may be here noted that while the agricultural and the daily and weekly newspaper press generally adopted the short crop idea and predicted high prices, there were a few leading commercial journals which took a conservative and moderate view of the situation. The latter were charged with opposing the interests of the farmers, but time has shown whose views were the more reliable.

## THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.

THE COMMERCIAL regrets the withdrawal of Senator Boulton's motion in the Senate at Ottawa to the effect that the time had come when bonuses of land grants to railway companies in Manitoba and the territories should cease. The motion was a most important one and a timely one. It is indeed high time that a halt was called in this matter of voting away the public domain. No question of more vital importance to the West, is before the people to-day. The dissipation of the public domain in Manitoba has gone on unchecked, with disastrous results to the province. Why is it that in Manitoba to-day, with but 150,000 inhabitants, there are no available free grant lands in the settled portions of the province? In these older settled districts there is abundance of unoccupied land. There is enough unoccupied land in the older settled portions of the province to support several times the population of these districts. There is considerable free grant land to be had yet, some of it of good quality, but it is in newer districts in the north, northwest and east. In what may be classed as the settled portion of the province, there is no free grant land, though there is a vast area of unoccupied land. The pick of the lands of the province have passed out of the hands of the government (that is the people) and is held by non-resident private parties and corporations. A decided stand should be taken in this matter of the public domain, and a strong effort should be put forth to stay this sacrifice of our public lands. It is time that all grants of land to railways and other corporations should cease, and the general land policy should be reformed, with a view to conserving the public domain for actual settlement. Supposing the millions of acres of unoccupied lands in the settled portions of Manitoba could be thrown open for settlement as free grant lands, would there not be an immediate rush of people to occupy these lands? Most assuredly there would be. The mistakes of the past cannot be all remedied, but an effort should be made to save the newer districts from the evil done in the best portions of Manitoba.

## SEED GRAINS.

A matter of very considerable importance to Manitoba, was discussed at a recent meeting of the Dominion Millers' Association, held at Toronto, regarding seed grains. The discussion was concerning the large number of kinds of wheat grown in Ontario, many varieties of which are not valuable sorts. It was also stated that common varieties of wheat were sold by seedsmen, under new names, and farmers were imposed upon in this way. The Dominion Millers' Association is composed of eastern millers, and if this matter is of interest in Ontario, it is of greater interest in Manitoba. The millers proposed that legislation be sought, for the purpose of regulating the sale of seed wheat. They propose that all wheat be examined by a board appointed for the purpose, and that each variety be named by this board; also that a penalty be provided for selling any wheat under any other name than that by which it is officially known. This would protect farmers from having a poor variety of grain palmed off on them under some new name. Now that we have the experimental farm system established

throughout the Dominion, and working so successfully, under the direction of skilled agriculturalists, it would be advisable for farmers to give attention to the varieties of grain experimented with at these farms, with a view to selecting the best varieties. Farmers should of course be encouraged in experimenting on their own account, with different varieties of grain; but at the same time it would be unwise for farmers to purchase largely of any alleged new variety of seed from promiscuous dealers, unless they have some record of the variety, and are sure it is the kind which it is represented to be. In some districts of the east, large quantities of very inferior wheats are grown, through the promiscuous sale of alleged new and choice varieties of seed wheat. It is time enough to take up a new variety of wheat, when some general knowledge can be had of its milling and other qualities. Without experimental farm systems now in operation, any really valuable wheat is not likely to remain long in the back-ground, and it is not necessary to take up the unknown varieties.

## PLANTING TREES.

The present season has been a favorable one for planting trees. Up to the early part of last week, the weather was cool and moist, and growth was backward. There was a minimum of bright hot weather, and trees set out at the proper time, would have a splendid chance to make new root and take hold of the soil before the weather became warm and dry. Planting trees is something which should be encouraged here on account of the open nature of the country. We need trees to beautify and give a comfortable and home-like appearance to the country. There is a considerable variety of native and imported trees to select from, which do well here, and there is no reason why we should not have plenty of trees in a few years. The first thing necessary, however, would seem to be to educate the people in tree planting methods. A great deal of the tree planting that is done, might just as well not be done at all, because it is done at the wrong time and is not done properly. The bulk of the tree planting is left until too late in the season. Last week, with the weather scorching hot, people might have been seen all around Winnipeg setting out trees, which were out in full leaf and in blossom. This is folly. These trees should have been planted long ago, before the buds were bursting. Early spring planting is perhaps better in this country than fall planting, but careful fall planting is a thousand times preferable to summer planting, such as that done this time of year. Year after year this custom of planting trees after they are in leaf, may be seen going on in Winnipeg, and the people wonder why the trees don't grow.

As has been stated, this season has been a favorable one for planting trees, but this means for trees set out in proper season. There was ample time to plant the trees before the buds developed into leaf and new growth had started. Many people, however, seem to foolishly imagine that the time to plant trees is after the summer growth has started.

The sale of about 350 barrels of Newfoundland cod liver oil has taken place at Montreal at about 40c; holders are now asking 42½c.