

supply of electricity would plunge the whole exhibition into Egyptian darkness, and there would be "wailing and gnashing of teeth," the former on the part of the women and children and the latter by the excited superintendents and directors.

In connection with the fair, during the week just closed, there has been an exhibition of fat and fancy stock that excels anything of the kind ever before gathered together on the coast. The attendance at that branch of the fair has been very large, numbering a great many who take a special interest in rearing fine stock. Cattle, horses, sheep, goats, swine and poultry were comprised in the display, and made a most attractive and interesting sight. Larger accommodations will be required for this department another year, as its growth in popularity and number of entries will undoubtedly be great.

Not only has the remarkable success of the exhibition vindicated the judgment of its projectors and proved that such an institution was not ahead of the times, but it has demonstrated the necessity of a larger building and increased room and facilities for display in every department. Already the directors are discussing this matter, and the probabilities are that another large building will be erected, which will be devoted solely to machinery, vehicles and agricultural exhibits, thus doubling the space available for general and miscellaneous exhibitors. By this means the general comfort and pleasure will be enhanced, since the noise of the machinery will not interfere with the enjoyment of the superb music, as is the case as things are now arranged. One thing is certain, that the fair to be held next year will as fully eclipse the one now in progress as this one does all previous efforts of the kind in the northwest.

ALASKA TIMBER.

THE huge cedars of Alaska and the islands and mainland of British Columbia are well known, and the impression has prevailed that the timber supply of Alaska is very great. This is entirely erroneous. The large timber is confined to the islands fringing the coast and to the very contracted areas of low land along the streams between the ocean and the mountains, which hug the coast line very close. A very competent judge of the subject, Geo. W. Hotchkiss, editor of the *Lumber Trade Journal*, of Chicago, made a special examination while on a recent visit to Alaska, and came to the conclusion that the forests of Oregon, Washington and British Columbia have no rival in Alaska. Says Mr. Hotchkiss:

"No, Alaska will never be available for a timber supply. It contains little but scrubby spruce, hem-

lock and cedar. I availed myself of every possible opportunity for forming a correct judgment upon this point, both by personal examination and by inquiry, the result of which convinces me that although at a cursory glance the country appears to be one vast forest, the great mass of the timber growth is practically worthless, and for commercial purposes wholly so.

"Of course, a steamer's deck is a poor place to judge of the timber resources of the country; but enough could be seen to enable an expert to form a fairly correct opinion when continued with such personal examination as is possible by going into the woods at the various landings.

"As an almost universal fact, the country stands on end, the mountains rising from the water's edge precipitously. In but few instances are there to be seen any low lands, and these are seldom more than from a few rods to a mile before the steep ascent of a high mountain is encountered. The vast number of small, dead trees, sprinkled through the green foliage, betokened a lightness of soil over the rocks which effectually forbade the idea of any very large and mature growth, while the rocky promontories of nearly every hill slope were sufficient to convince any lumberman that it will be impossible to use teams among the timber if valuable timber could be found.

"After leaving Seymour narrows, at the head of the Gulf of Georgia, there was but little appearance of timber of commercial value. My attention was called at several points to what the inhabitants called first class timber, but I must confess to my disappointment in saying that I did not see a first class tree during my journey after leaving the head of Vancouver island. At Wrangel I saw what was considered first class spruce in the yard of a new mill there building, but it was not the first class of Puget sound or of the east. If the world of the future is to depend upon Alaska for its timber supply, it must rest content with a grade of timber that is not now considered merchantable in average lumber markets. That there are a few good trees scattered among the scrubs can not be doubted, but I could learn nowhere of any claim that there was more than a few hundred acres in a place of what the inhabitants call good timber."

Boulanger comes to America to escape the "energetic action of the reporters of the British capital." He probably expects to hunt buffalo in the wilderness about Niagara falls and stalk antlered game in the sylvan shades of Deerfield, Massachusetts. If he remains, as is intimated, until his services are called for in France, he will probably know something about this country before he leaves us, and will have an opportunity of investigating the merits of our native brand of reporter to his heart's content.