

THE-BEET SUGAR PROBLEM.

Beet sugar culture, of which we have heard so much in these latter days of Cuban insurrection and sugar speculation bids fair, according to the Knoxville correspondent of the New York Times, to have a thorough trial in Tenn. forthwith. Germany and France, as everybody knows, have long been able to nearly supply the whole of their sugar, for many years, from the sugar-beet; while a single factory in Illinois, and that not a success, has been the only experiment of the kind in the United States. The Times says:

Good judges have pronounced the climate of Virginia and Tenn. to furnish the right length of season for fully maturing the beet, so as to give its richest yield of sugar; and, as to the profitability of its culture, it may be judged from our correspondent's estimate, derived from good authority that the best land will, after a few years, yield ten tons of beets per acre, which will make from 1500 to 2000 pounds of sugar.

It is true that the machinery is costly, and so is the skilled labor, and both must be brought at first from Europe. The enterprise also requires an abundant supply of water; but with all deductias, there is evidently, in the figures just given, a handsome margin of profit, especially since the price of Cuban sugar—food for cattle, fertilizing material for land, and so forth; and the factory refuse returned to the beet field may double the ensuing yields.