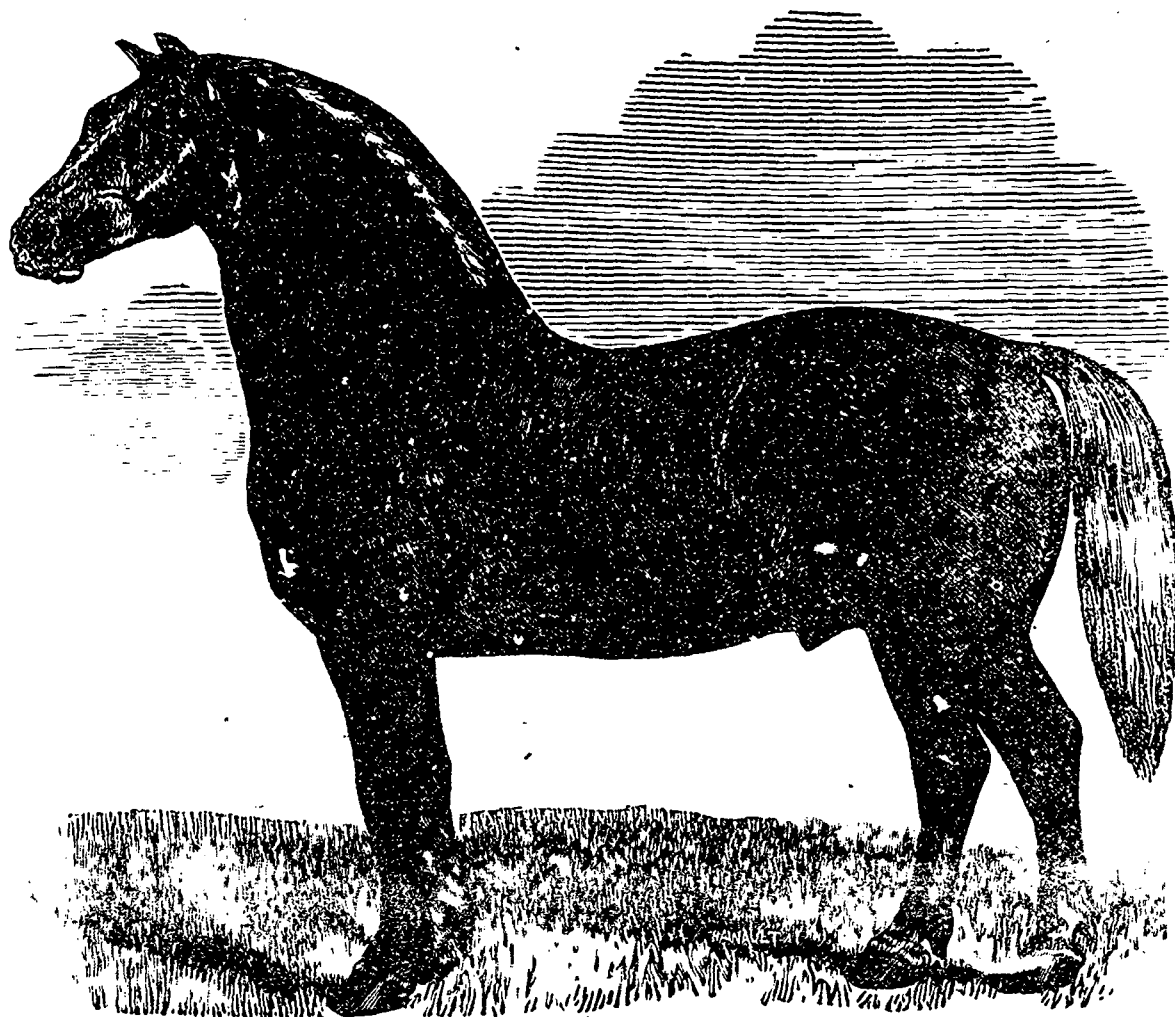


The process of digestion in the bovine species is much more complicated, and, at the same time, more thorough than in monogastric animals such as the horse.

In fact the more conversant we become with the anatomy and physiology of the ox, the more perfect we see the wonderful arrangement, and perfection of adaptation of means to an end, in the digestive system of the ox tribe for the conversion of food into beef to be, viewed in the abstract: the huge, coarse, bony frame, the large feeding capacity and perfection of the digestive apparatus, the quiet phlegmatic temperament, their sedentary and inactive lives, all point to nature's having intended the bovine species as food for man.

In preceding numbers of the Journal we noticed the peculiarities of the different breeds of cattle, some of which are natural while others are the result of judicious selection and care in breeding. We will here merely notice that, as the result of years of study and practice, breeders have produced certain families of cattle which in a most extraordinary degree have developed the fattening tendency. The improved breeds not only produce more flesh in proportion to the food consumed, but they arrive at maturity much sooner, attain a greater size, and altogether are more profitable to both the breeder and the feeder.

The breeds in which these qualities have been most



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cultivated are the "Short horns," the "Herefords," and the "Polled Angus;" and the purer bred they are the better feeders they prove to be.

As few farmers can afford to stock their farm altogether with pure bred stock, grades will be found in many cases to retain the fattening qualities of the pure-bred progenitor.

Of all breeds the short horn is the best to use for crossing with: no bull will stamp his characteristics on crosses like the short-horn; hence, for producing grades for feeding the short-horn cross should always be preferred. They grow faster, larger, and produce more weight per pound for food consumed than any other cross.

American Short-horn breeders Convention.

The cattle interests of Canada and the United-States are so much dependent on one another, especially as concerns the breeding and improvement of stock, that whatever is done by our neighbours is watched with interest by our breeders on this side of line. The meeting of this association recently held at Chicago, was one of more than ordinary interest on account of the important questions there discussed. We are pleased to see that on that meeting Canada, and particularly this Province, was well represented. The Hon. David Christie, the late speaker in the Dominion Senate, occupied the chair, and among those present were Hon. M. H. Cochrane, of