

HORSES AND CATTLE

BEST BEEF PRODUCING BREEDS AND
METHOD OF FEEDING.

BY MR. S. SCHELL, WOODSTOCK.

The measure of success achieved in any department or undertaking depends largely upon the plan pursued in the beginning, and especially is it so in reference to the breeding and feeding of beef cattle. It is an admitted fact that a well-bred animal, with the same care and food as given to a scrub, will grow from a quarter to a third larger, and command a proportionately higher price. Hence it is of the utmost importance for breeders to use every reasonable means within their reach to raise nothing but what would be of a fine type, and likely to attain to a high standard of excellence.

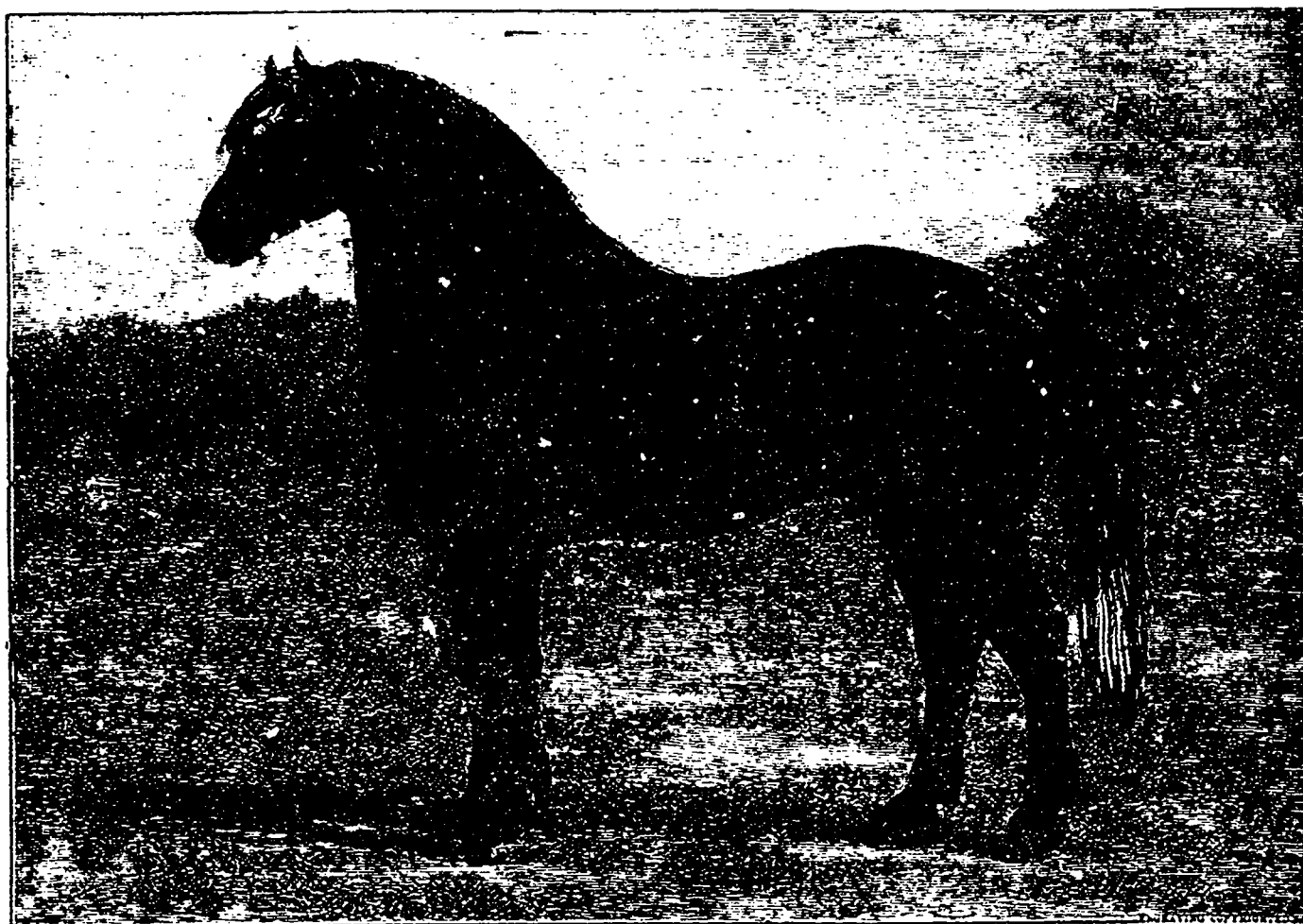
good size, bid fair to be no mean rivals of the Shorthorns.

The Galloways on account of their hardiness are raised extensively for the ranches in the West and North-West Territories. But few are bred and kept in Ontario as yet.

Admitting pure breeds to be the best, we are led to enquire how may the ordinary farmer of limited means, most successfully possess himself of those cattle that will approach nearest to the standard desired. Invariably, without an exception, nothing but pure bred males should be used, and only those possessing the qualifications or characteristics it is desirable to perpetuate. No animal, no matter how fine in appearance, is likely to produce stock equal to that from pure breeds. If the farmers of Canada, instead of allowing hundreds of the best bred animals to be shipped yearly to the States, would only retain

clover hay for wintering, with bran and pea meal mixed; also a few roots, if I have them. They should be kept in a box stall and given liberty to exercise themselves, to develop bone and muscle. By all means they should never be allowed to lose flesh, for every period of slow or defective growth is a clear loss.

Much has been said and written of late respecting the early maturity of cattle. My experience has been that cattle coming three years old are the best for winter feeding, and are therefore three years old when ready for shipment in the spring. The quality of the beef is also better than when younger, as there is a better admixture of lean and fat. In order to obtain the best results from the feeding of cattle in the winter, there are many important conditions to be borne in mind, and in the neglect of which the growth and condition of the cattle will be very materially



JUPITER 3692 (216).

[Recorded with pedigree in the Percheron Stud-Books of France and America]

A prize winner in France, and one of the six horses selected to be sketched by Rosa Bonheur. Property of Savage and Farnum, Island Home Stock Farm, Grosse Isle, Wayne Company, Michigan.

The question that naturally arises here is: what breed, all things considered, is the most profitable to raise?

From the data furnished us as the result of the numerous experiments made relative to the milk and beef producing qualities of the different breeds of cattle, we unhesitatingly claim the Shorthorns to stand at the head. As a rule they are good average milkers, while some strains rank quite high, which is a very important consideration, even where beef is the prime object sought.

In the fat stock show rings the Shorthorns have carried off by far the largest share of the honours, both at home and abroad. For years they have been, and still are, universal favourites. We should bear in mind, however, that some of the other breeds, although comparatively few in number, have frequently ranked first in competition with Shorthorns.

The Herefords on account of their fine, finished appearance are much thought of, while the Aberdeen Angus Polls, by their aptitude to lay on flesh evenly distributed, early maturity, and

them at home, and banish the scrubs from their herds, till every farmer should be found raising stock that would be a credit both to themselves and the markets they might seek, the wealth of the country would be enhanced millions of dollars.

I will now refer briefly to the management of calves. While many breeders and feeders allow the calves to suckle their dams four or five months or even longer, I don't think it will ever be practised generally, and especially in dairying districts. In fact unless fitting up for the show ring, I think it too expensive a method to adopt, when the same nutritive value may be furnished at a far less cost. I would advocate weaning the calves when from three to four days old; and feed liberally with milk fresh from the cow until they are five or six weeks old, when skimmed milk with a little boiled flax-seed may be substituted. Chopped oats with the hulls sifted out we have found the most suitable grain to feed, for the first few weeks, when the sifting may be dispensed with, and a little pea or corn meal added, which should be continued all summer. I would prefer

affected. Whether the cattle are raised or bought too much stress cannot be laid on the importance of handling only those that possess the characteristics of good feeders, which should be carefully studied to insure success. Without going into a minute description of the points of a good animal I would just observe that coarseness in any respect should be avoided, or those with long legs, lank or flat sides, as they are invariably shy feeders, and even if they get tolerably fat they will never have a good appearance. But those with wide, well-rounded shoulders, well ribbed up, with flank well let down and full, and withal broad and full across the loins cannot but prove satisfactory.

In referring to the method of feeding, I would just state that the kinds of food used must necessarily vary under different circumstances. That is, while some may find one kind of grain the most suitable for their farm, with others it may not do so well. Also roots may do well in some sections or seasons, and in others may be difficult to raise, or fail entirely.