

tural Society. The officers are:—Jno. S. McKay, *President*; Alex. McKay, *Vice-President*; John M. Baillie, *Secretary*; John McKay, *Treasurer*; Alex. Baillie, Alex. Ferguson, John Ross, Danl. Baillie, Wm. Sutherland, *Directors*.

The attested certificate of payment, which is not required to be sent in until December, you will find enclosed. We expect to derive some benefit from the Society during the coming Summer, at least we intend to be of some trouble to the officers, therefore we thought it right to forward certificate, &c., as it were a guarantee of good faith. J. M. B.

#### PLASTER.

OLD BARN, TRURO, May 14, 1875.

Having seen the article from the *Journal*, published in *Truro Sun*, where you say that if you knew where Ground Plaster could be had you would advertise it for the benefit of your readers, I beg to say that I can furnish it at Truro for \$1 per barrel.

GEORGE BURGESS.

#### A NEW AGR. SOCIETY AT SALMON RIVER, BEAVER HARBOUR, CO. OF HALIFAX.

A public meeting was held at Salmon River, Beavour Harbour, on the 27th day of December, 1874, at which Henry Balcom, Esq., was appointed Chairman, and the Rev. Edward Ansell, Sec'y.

The meeting having been called to order, it was resolved to organize an Agricultural Society for this part of the Eastern Shore, to be called the "Salmon River, Beaver Harbour, Agricultural Society," for the purpose of improving the breed of horses, cattle, sheep and hogs. The following officers were appointed:—Michael O'Leary, *President*; Samuel Balcom, *Vice-President*; *Directors*, Charles Hartling, Leonard Winters, John Fraser, Norman Campbell, Capt. A. Romkey.

Norman Campbell, was appointed Representative of the Society for transacting business and other matters.

Rev. Edward Ansell, *Secretary* and *Treasurer*.

The Roll of membership (42) was exhibited, and power was given to add to their number; and the completed List now accompanies these minutes.

HENRY BALCOM, SR., *Chairman*.  
EDWARD ANSELL, *Secretary*.

#### FORCING ASPARAGUS.

Those who are fond of this delicious vegetable, and desire to lengthen its season, can do so with little trouble or expense by starting some roots under glass in a hot-bed in the early part of March. Two sashes, 3x6 each, will, under care-

ful treatment, give a couple of bunches every other day for a month or so, until such time as the out-of-door growth comes into market. The hot-beds can be made in the way described in the *Weekly Tribune* of January 19. Old asparagus roots are the best for forcing. When the bed is made the roots may be set eight or ten inches apart and covered with about three or four inches of rich soil; then put on the sashes and cover at night with straw mats or other covering to protect from cold weather. The bed will require frequent watering to keep the earth moist; this should be done at midday, and always with tepid water. The temperature of the bed may be high up to 70 degrees. This plan of forcing asparagus could be carried on with some profit by florists by arranging beds of earth under the tables in forcing-houses, and planting old asparagus roots. The heat requisite to start young plants would be quite enough to force an early growth of asparagus, which would sell readily at high prices in market during March and early part of April.—*Tribune*.

[Asparagus may likewise be forced by simply putting a hot-bed frame and sashes over a portion of the Asparagus bed.—Ed. J. A.]

#### CHEESE FACTORIES.

We have repeatedly received letters of enquiry respecting the details of a cheese factory, from parties contemplating the starting of such. We now publish, as the best answer we can give to such correspondents, a communication from Mr. Willard, furnished by him to the Royal Agricultural Society of England, and which concisely covers the whole ground:

"There are a few factories where the milk is purchased by, and the business carried on wholly under control, of one or more proprietors, thus making it a separate and distinct interest from that of patrons.

"The popular method of organizing factories, and one which seems to give good satisfaction, is to make them joint stock concerns. The ground is selected and an estimate made of buildings, machinery, and fixtures. The whole cost is then divided up into shares of fifty to one hundred dollars each, and the neighbouring farmers, or those favourable to the movement, take stock in proportion to the number of cows from which they are to deliver milk. Officers are chosen and the company managed as a joint stock company. Usually a committee, or some one person selected from the patrons, is chosen as a salesman of the cheese, whose duty it is to make sales at best prices to be had, arrange dividends, and pay over shares to patrons, deducting of course the

price per pound for manufacturing, which is made to cover all expenses, including the per centage on cost of buildings and fixtures.

"A good cheesemaker is employed as manager and manufacturer at a certain price per pound of the cheese manufactured. This manager employs his labourers or assistants, and pays all expense of running the factory, taking care of cheese, keeping record of milk delivered daily by different patrons, entering the same on the books of the factory and upon the passbooks of patrons. Often the company employ the manufacturer and all the hands at fixed salaries.

"The milk is weighed at the factory when delivered, and as experience has shown that every ten pounds of milk (as an average for the season) should make one pound of cured cheese, firm, solid, and in good marketable condition, each farmer thus has a daily record in his passbook of what his herd is yielding.

"The manager is employed with the understanding that he is to make a good, fair article, and his product is examined from time to time by committees, by experts, and by patrons, as they see fit, and thus bad work is soon detected. If the management is not satisfactory the cheesemaker is discharged or the causes of the bad work traced out and rectified.

"The stockholders and those delivering milk meet from time to time and deliberate as to sales, each one voting according to the number of cows from which he delivers milk, and in this way instructions are issued to the salesman.

"Then there is another method of establishing factories. One man, or a company, erects buildings, and is to all expense in running the factory, charging by the pound of cured cheese for manufacturing. The cheese in this instance, it will be seen, belongs to patrons, who appoint a salesman and control the product precisely as under the other method.

"It will be observed that under this system of checks all men who deliver milk are upon an equal footing, where no advantage can be taken, for the farmer, if he chooses, can weigh his milk at home and compare it with the figures entered at the factory upon his pass-book. The company is responsible for milk delivered. The account is payable in cheese, this part of the system being somewhat like that in making deposits at bank.

"1. 'Number of cows (average).—The number of cows varies greatly, from 300 to 1,500 or more. Our experience shows that a factory with less than 300 cows will not pay expenses, including interest on capital invested in factory, fixtures, &c., unless an extra rate be charged for manufacturing. Extremely large factories, say of 1,500 cows, do not give the best return to farmers. There is usually more waste; the milk coming from a long distance is