

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

Another Letter from Mr. McFadden.

AFTER a long delay we have another letter from Daniel McFadden, forwarded us by Mr. Watson of Alliston. The letter was written on white birch bark. Some of the bark was not thicker than ordinary note paper and just as pliable, being folded or rolled as desired. The bark can be written on just as easily as paper, and where the latter cannot be obtained it makes a very good substitute. It seems as if nature has provided for us in many ways and the Indians or those who live with them take advantage of these wise provisions. The birch bark was rolled, then a piece of wood was hollowed out and the roll of manuscript placed inside of the tube and thus carefully protected it came safely through the mails. The following note from Mr. George Watson accompanied Mr. McFadden's letter :

ALLISTON, Oct. 20th, 1887.

DEAR SIR:—

Having received a letter from Mr. McFadden, I enclose it to you to-day. You will see that he is not anxious that it should be published, but I agreed to send you any further information that I could get regarding Mr. McFadden. Hoping his letter will be of great interest to you

I remain, Yours respectfully,

GEO. WATSON.

RAVEN'S PEAK, NORTH NIPISSING TERRITORY,

Aug. 31, 1887.

MY DEAR WATSON:—

I was glad to hear from you and the more so on account of the bundle of news you sent me and it happened I got it very soon after you sent it. Young Beaver Tail was out at that time. Well, in the first place, I must reprimand you for what you wrote Mr. Root as to Indians being more intelligent than white men and what they did not know was not worth knowing. You know I did not say any such thing. I only said the Indians know some very useful things that white men do not know, but, of course, we all know they are not to be compared to white men in general intelligence. In the sciences they are nowhere. Well, it is no wonder Mr. Root told you to be careful about placing confidence in me after you told him what you did. Now, I hope you will make no gratis statements for me in future if you have occasion to write any person. Indeed, I am almost sorry I told you or wrote Mr. Root at all about our bee-business, but I have done it and it is so. I see one man was experimenting by putting bees in the snow

and could not revive them after three days. I don't wonder at that. In the first place he starved them about to death, next he wet them by putting warm bees in the snow, then kept them in a room where there was plenty of air and, no doubt, dampish; then warmed them at the stove although he tried some in the sun with better results. Now, just here I will answer your questions and tell where he was wrong. Bees must not be starved. They must not be damp, they must not have any circulation of air about them nor air space. They would be likely to mildew and spoil, they must be at least above freezing point which a bank of snow never reaches if made deep enough before hard frost sets in. If that man had made a magnifying piece of ice and examined his bees in three days he would have found mildew about their waists. The sun's rays is the only safe way to bring bees to animation. Now, I think that is all I can tell you about it. Not sent off starved, perfectly dry, no open air about them, nor light, no change of temperature such as opening a hole into them after they are packed. Opened only to the warm sun. Now, as to our spring report I have not much to say, but here it is: Put 250 in a cave in the fall, took out earlier than usual, the 20th of April, and exposed to the sun, sheltered from wind, hives tipped toward the sun; 247 came out all right. We made an ice magnifier and found a light mildew around the three that were lifeless. They were extra strong hives and we did only think, but know by experience that we did not get them properly cooled before putting them under the snow. We thought as we had lost none for several years, and never lost but three since I started in with him, that we had got it down so fine that we would never lose any more, but you see we were mistaken, however, we don't fret about that. Well, as to your other questions. First, I never want to live among white people again. We never saw nor never want to see a missionary tramp in our territory. Second, we raise corn, buckwheat and potatoes. We have fresh fish and dried fish, venison and moose beef; same way we have fat beaver, otter, and fat dog, and often bear, pheasants, ducks and geese in abundance. Salt? Ah! well, if I tell you we have a fine salt spring, I hope it will not excite the greed of white friends to rummage our country for money making. As for utensils, we have pots and all kinds of dishes made of clay. We have a fine, white hard clay. We have spoons, scraper and ladles made of copper. The scrapers are for cleaning and tanning skins. I don't wish to make any further statements as to where and how we get or make the copper basons and I do not expect you to send the