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## GOSSIP

"Begorra!" old Paddy O'Flaherty cried, "Yez c'n say what yez like, but thot newspaper lied."

It said I c'd see the eclipse if I'd smoke A small bit of glass. Sure a piece I hov broke

And filled up me poipe with the bits nate and small,

And divil a bit c'n I loight it at all!"

### THE ALASKA WHEAT FAKE.

It is astonishing the amount of free advertising which the originator of the story of the two hundred bushels to the acre Alaska wheat got for the product of his imagination in the press of this country and the United States. It is surprising the number of reputable journals, news, general magazine and agricultural papers that published the stereotyped slush about this brand-new cereal sensation. Anyone who knew anything about agriculture at all, surmised at once the nature of the game being worked, and denounced the whole thing as a fake. Some magazines, though, of continental repute and boasted foresight and shrewdness in editorial direction, fell ready victims to the publicity-seeking Idahoan and his wonderful wheat. *The Saturday Evening Post* of Philadelphia, founded by Benjamin Franklin in 1728, fell in at once with the Alaska wheat promoters' suggestion that the circular he was broadcasting over the continent should be reproduced in its columns, or maybe for that exclusive journal a special article was prepared. At any rate at the *Post's* advertising rates the doctory promoter got several thousand dollars worth of space and was paid for his article perhaps in the bargain. An American publication makes some comment on the *Post* and Alaska wheat in the following:

"The *Post* is so sensitive to ridicule that it made no mention of the fact that Alaska wheat needs no grinding or kneading in order to make the finest bread. It is only necessary to dump a quart or so into a fireless cooker, and, in the course of half an hour, it is trans-

formed into the most attractive loaves of bread. Some farmers claim that the bread is already buttered when taken from the cooker, and instances have been known where thin pieces of boiled ham were found between the slices.

"A farmer in Idaho says that he planted hops in rows between the wheat rows; the hops became yeast in due season, just as the wheat ripened; he then kindled a bonfire at one end of the field, and the wheat and yeast mixed themselves together and were baked into Vienna loaves, which commanded the highest prices at Boise. It is a peculiarity of Alaska wheat that it binds and shocks itself, and, if given a flail,

will also thrash itself. It is said to be an affecting sight to see a sheaf of Alaska wheat thrashing its fellow sheaves, and stacking the straw in symmetrical piles.


"Another Idaho farmer was disturbed one night by a noise from the direction of his wheat field; going out to investigate, he found the Alaska wheat shredding itself with steel combs, the intelligent cereal having heard that shredded wheat was popular.

"*The Saturday Evening Post* made no mention of these historical incidents, but confined its remarks to generalities, which convinced nobody, and did a real injustice to the discover of the

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