

## Twain's Revenge

'I had run up to Glasgow on my way to the Highlands,' said Mark Twain, 'and stepped into a telegraph and postal station to send a despatch to a friend in London. I asked several questions as to how long it would take, when the message would be delivered, etc. The girl at the desk was inclined to be snubbish, and at the fourth question she cut me dead. "But I got even with her. I just sent my friend this message: "Arrived safely. Girls here ugly and had-tempered." And she had to send it, too!'

The demand for poultry for export to South Africa (says the Wellington correspondent of the 'Otago Daily Times') is still unsatisfied. One Wellington firm has been anxious to purchase birds at the rate of £1000 per month, but is unable to obtain anything like the number which is required. The Government poultry expert states that this year's export to South Africa will probably be almost double that for 1903-04, when 100,000 birds were sent away. In Christchurch alone since April last the export has been about 100,000 head.

In the Government Life Insurance 'Recorder' just to hand we find the following items, which will be of much interest to those about to insure. The Department has just celebrated its thirty-fourth birthday, it has over 43,000 policies in force, it has an income of over £160,000, it has allotted £2,000,000 in bonuses, and has paid over £3,500,000 in cash to policy holders, and has over £11,000,000 insured by its policies. It has decreased the ratio of expenses to income by 25 per cent in fourteen years. Above and beyond all this it has the Colony as a security, which is a matter of supreme importance to insurers.

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