

NEW MET. TRAIN.

Comfort is the keynote of the new Metropolitan and District trains --- chromium fittings and larger windows are all part of the improvements. ~~which are costing nearly two million pounds.~~ Straphangers will be glad to hear that the new straps are the last word in luxury. A new button device allows you to open the door yourself --- but it won't open till the train stops. New South Wales has a new train too. Not this one --- this is the old one, making its last run. Sydney folks are very sentimental. It's such a break with the old days, saying good-bye to this funny old train that has served them for fifty years. As Puffing Billy passes by for the last time, he leaves each old citizen with <sup>an eye full of tears</sup> ~~a tear in his eye~~ --- and a mouthful of soot.

HOP PICKING.

Selborne --- The Minister of Health made a tour of the hopfields of Hampshire --- which may surprise a lot of people who thought they only had hoppers in Kent. Who cares, anyway, as long as there are some in the beer. Sir Kingsley Wood ~~ex~~ expressed ~~deep~~ his interest in the general improvement of conditions for hop-pickers.

WHALING.

South Africa --- new methods in the Indian Ocean have brought a return of prosperity to the whaling industry there.

The giant sea-beast is hunted with a harpoon gun, making marksmanship much more accurate than it used to be. It is also much safer --- but not for the whale.