



YARDLEY MUST GO

PC/11/7/24-8

This is not a time for illusions or wishful thinking. Let us, then, face the issue squarely. The result of the last Test match between England and Australia was a disaster that may set the clock back fifty years. Although the results announced on the first evening were excellent, those that followed were catastrophic, and in the end stark defeat had to be faced.

But, in spite of this heavy setback to English cricket, we must not be defeatist. The fight is only beginning. It behoves us to prepare for it by learning the lessons which defeat, always a hard taskmaster, is nevertheless willing to teach. And there is no time to be lost; for the next Test, which is almost upon us, will be of vital importance.

How far have the lessons of the last Test been learned? This is the question members of the public must ask themselves while there is yet hope of avoiding another and perhaps a greater disaster. True, Hutton and Wright have gone; but is this enough? We think not. Much more is needed, and, in spite of any pressure which may be brought to bear on us, we shall not hesitate to **suggest it.**

Yardley must go. England cannot afford the luxury of having a captain who does not lead his team to victory. And, after all, Yardley is no longer in his first youth. He is 33 years old. Let him make way for a younger man.

Compton must go. Even the Australians share that view, and it is quite obvious that everything possible should be done to avoid exasperating them, for if they are annoyed they may retaliate by piling up bigger scores than ever. It is, we take it, unnecessary to point out how harmful that would be to the English team as a whole.

Edrich must go. His failure to get runs in the past two Tests has been largely responsible for England's defeats. Fully acknowledging his great abilities, we put forward the idea with extreme reluctance; but the fact is that England cannot afford in the present circumstances to run any risks. So he must be dropped.





Bedser has no right to represent England at a critical time like this, and he must go. Washbrook must go. Having failed three times in four innings, he is regarded by many people as a liability rather than an asset to the team. And is it seriously contended that Dollery and Evans are the kind of men one would call upon in a grave emergency? They must go.

The umpires, of course, must go. The Selection Committee, which was so ill-advised as to choose a team that went down to defeat , must also go. And, if necessary, the M.C.C. must go.

Only thus can England face the future in a truly united spirit and with sober confidence in her ability to beat the Australians and restore English cricket to its former glory.

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(Written by G. Rayner Ellis and J. Mervis, of 155 Jeppe Street, Johannesburg, to express the opinion of many members of the United Party.)

