

# Cricket Criticism by Bill Bowes

"(F your batting, especially after the second innings at Auckland, what can I say to be kind?" Bill Bowes, former England and Yorkshire fast bowler, smiled ruefully as he addressed the microphone at 1YA. There was, of course, nothing much he could say, but for New Zealand's fielding and bowling he was able to offer some encouragement and some valuable criticism.

Mr. Bowes, represented the *Yorkshire Evening News* and other English newspapers on the M.C.C.'s recent tour of Australia and New Zealand. Two days before he left Auckland for Home he recorded four talks, which will be of great interest to cricketers and all followers of the sport. They are called *Cricket Down Under*, and are at present being broadcast by 1YA. They will be heard later from other stations throughout the country.



"The technique of Australian batsmen is not good"

Bill Bowes is an experienced broadcaster and speaks with a soft and pleasing accent. He has given talks on cricket for the BBC and has done commentaries for television. He is a powerfully-built man standing 6ft. 4½in., and was a stalwart member of Jardine's "body-line" touring team which visited Australia and New Zealand in the 1932-33 season. In first-class cricket he took a total of 1601 wickets and claimed a bowler's century in each of nine consecutive seasons before the war.

The technique of Australian batsmen is not good, he says. Playing on pitches which are as hard as concrete they find the ball comes off straight and true. They have lost the art of playing the straight bat and this has been the cause of their downfall. Against bowlers like Tyson, Appleyard and Wardle, who made the ball deviate even on Australian pitches, it was suicide to play across the flight of the ball. There was

not one Australian player whom Mr. Bowes considered outstanding. He had not seen one whose batting was technically correct.

New Zealand pitches, on the other hand, are too soft and too slow. The bowling is negative and makes no attempt to force the batsman into making mistakes. If New Zealand bowling were more aggressive batsmen would be forced to fight for runs instead of waiting for the odd bad ball. But bad balls were few and far between when an overseas touring side visited this country, and that, thinks Mr. Bowes, is partly the explanation of New Zealand's collapse in the second Test.

Only two New Zealand batsmen impressed him. Sutcliffe he regards as the best left-hander in the world, and John Reid he considers an all-purpose player who would get into a first-class team anywhere.

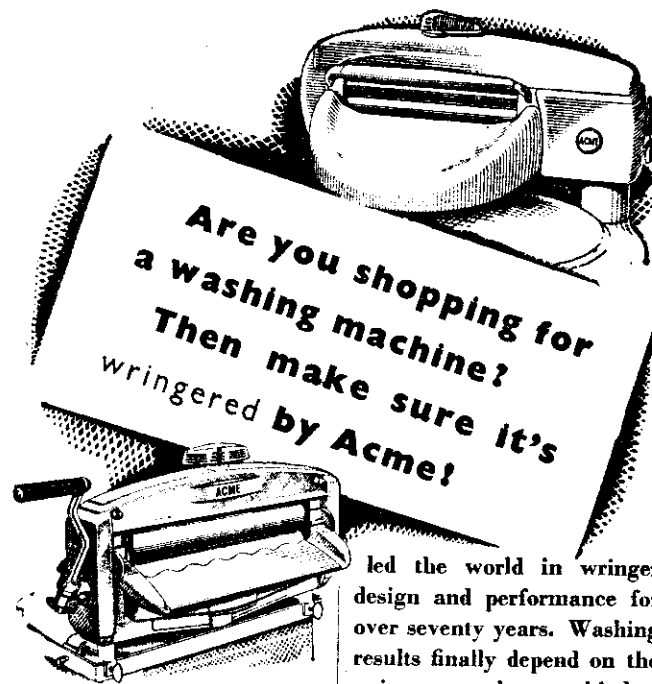
## TRAVELLING HOME

*[PULLING slowly through the Waihi Gorge,  
Tauranga a bare thirty miles off now,  
Paeroa long past, Karangahake gone—  
Only this clean, fast river now is left  
To leap and fall down seawards by the line.  
So Athenree appears, and down we fall  
In one fast plunge where first, like two grey mice  
Crouched head to tail, old Bowen Town appears  
Out on the white-laced coast, two distant humps  
The sight of which first makes me feel at home.*

*A long, low island of pine-planted dunes  
Goes sixteen miles up to Tauranga Heads  
From here Outside's the open sea; inside,  
Mile after mile of shifting sandbank lies,  
And herons fish and little channels run  
By sticks and markers where the black shags perch.  
Inlets and harbours flow in to the line.  
Sometimes a fleet of swans heads round the point.*

*We pull on past, through cutting, over bridge,  
Too fast for me to see all that I want,  
Too slow for my impatience, till the line  
Swings in, among the maize and pumpkin fields  
And here's the town, the Mount, and all I love.  
But first I'll get my bags down from the rack,  
And find my ticket, and fold up my coat—  
One bridge to go—I'll stand up now and wait.*

—Pat Wilson



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