

EUROPEAN SCENE

Cabled by F. E. BAUME, "TRUTH'S" LONDON EDITOR

I SUPPOSE you get the same thing in Australia. All last week the clatter of English politicians never ceased — moan, moan, moan . . . growl, growl, growl . . . threaten, threaten, threaten . . . yah, yah, yah . . . more income tax on the way . . . you're not working hard enough . . . get to work if you don't we'll shift you . . . etc., etc. I wonder how our forefathers would have dealt with these modern despots, Buddhas of the ballot boxes.

Sir Stafford Cripps has made it pretty clear now that there is more than a chance of an income tax increase.

In other words, the British general election will be conducted on a "Woe, woe, woe" basis unequalled even by that Master of Misery, the Italian Ansaldo, who, with the late Lord Haw Haw, was one of the war's entertainments.

Health Minister Bevan spent a few hours this week at the Indian Exhibition of Yoga, at which he watched with relish a devotee standing on his head for a long period. The difference between Yoga methods and those of the British Government at this stage don't seem to differ, only the public suffers — probably because it hasn't enough strength to stand on its head.

Behind all this persiflage, however, is something more. There is a Government suggestion that a five-day week fought for by unionists all over the British world may be scrapped or, to use the official word, "suspended."

Jack Jones, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry for Supply, gave this choice bit of information last Monday. Formerly a steel smelter, he proclaimed at Bradford during a tour that he would be prepared to put up a case if called on for a temporary stopping of the five-day working week till normal times returned. This isn't so much a commentary on British industry and method as on the atrophy of political conscience in the British Socialist Party, or for that matter, in all parties since the Kaiser's war. The individual has his own rights a sto whether he favors a five-day working week or a five-and-a-half-day week. But the political gyrations of governments have been such in the past ten years that the ardent Socialist who elected them upon his bedstead is perplexed.

Consider the recent statements by British leaders: Prime Minister Attlee calls for more work and no more pay

Minister Attlee calls for more work and no more pay. Cripps demands of private industry utter support . . . and half-way through his series of exhortatory speeches to employers and company directors he increases their profits tax!

The Jones bombshell, if meant, could be more shattering to organized Labor than the Attlee freeing of wage increases. The five-day week has been more popular than money with the unionists. Overtime is spurned. As the miners have indicated, workers, even at the expense of extra pay in the case of urgent industry, prefer to spread the hours over a five-day week.

To add to the joy and brightness I am spreading, consider the Chancellor's speech at the Lord Mayor's dinner on Tuesday night.

Within a fortnight of devaluation and his "panacea" broadcast, Cripps now finds that inflationary pressure is tending to build up again. Health and defence costs are likely to rise, the gold reserve was down to 330 million sterling, or less. It gained 20 mil-

German Angle

AT Bonn the new German politicians were as raucous in their ranting as the old.

Their early sessions produced harsh attacks on Britain. Then veteran Doktor Konrad Adenauer, Chancellor, amid Nazi-like cheers, said his Government would refuse to announce devaluation of the mark in terms of the pound sterling ordered by the Western Allies. The Allied High Commissioners had decided to devalue from two shilling to 1/8s and had ordered also that the export coal prices should not be raised. Days elapsed. From the rostrum at Bonn the raucous ranting continued.

But there was an interesting silence about the Western German Government's "refusal" to devalue. The speeches had to do with other matters. Then, formally, legally and simply, devaluation was announced. The reason? Adenauer was told that with a few other breaks of this kind there would be no Western German Government.

Behind the scenes that he wouldn't tolerate on Britain's part the German leaders who were already trying to ignore the new occupation code. General Sir Brian Robertson, former British Commander-in-Chief, now High Commissioner, told some of his intimates the job would become intolerable unless action were taken immediately to impress on the ordinary German public that the German Government



Sir Stafford Cripps . . . finds "inflationary pressure" is really on.

Bun up to last Monday. But as in a bridge finesse, the master cards for England still seem to be on the wrong side.

German Angle



P.M. Atlas

"more work."
functioned only in matters bearing no relation to overseas affairs.

The decision? Britain has convinced America now, and France most certainly agrees, that the military occupation will continue until the Germans have proved by good behavior their capacity to govern themselves.

No man has been more firm than Bevin in dealing with the problem made more difficult by sloppy sentimentality of a few English politicians.

Anti-Red Anomaly

TWO civil servants suspended by the Government from jobs touching on defence secrets in the Anti-Communist purge 18 months ago are still drawing their salary.

One is earning £17 a week. The other, drawing £8, passes his time by reading novels. Both men, say the Ministry, refuse to resign and as no non-secret Government job can be found for them, have been sacked twice during the past few months. So far, the purge of Communist elements in Government departments has cost the taxpayer £20,000 in paying salaries that have not been earned.



George Bernard Shaw wrote a special puppet play, "Shakes (meaning Shakespeare) versus Shaw," for the Lanchester marionettes at the Malvern (Eng.) dramatic festival. In this photo G.B.S. is seen as a puppet arguing with Frances Day (star of the festival players, right), and his maker, Waldo Lanchester.