

aging orator, with his splendid dome shorn by the years of its once profuse hirsute adornment, and his benign smile, says:

"The Hon. William Jennings Bryan is giving a series of lectures on Florida and its opportunities for investment at the Venetian Casino at Coral Gables.

"Mr. Bryan is Florida's and Miami's first citizen. He has made his winter home in Miami for 12 years and taken an important part in local affairs.

"Mr Bryan has accepted a most favorable opportunity of giving his views on Florida and its development in a larger way. In these lectures he will be broadcasting—as it were—opinions and arguments which are of inestimable value to everyone interested in this subject."

Frank B. Knopf, a clever writer in the *Evening World* of this city, says speaking of the Florida land boom:

"One thing that is giving impetus to the boom must be 'whispered.' Florida is a wide-open State, and free and independent citizens like it. The Volstead act may have been adopted by the Legislature, but if it was they do not like to be reminded of it. Liquor is dispensed nearer to pre-Prohibition standards than in any other State. Any one who wants the sporting life can have it. There are no blue laws, no interference with 'personal liberty.' Even William Jennings Bryan, one of Miami's leading citizens, has not lifted his voice in protest. But he does lift his voice every day at a noonday booster meeting in one of Miami's great real estate developments, at so much per 'lift.' A rival development has Gilda Gray as a counter attraction. Bryan for the uplift and Gilda for the 'shakedown.'"

## Jack The Giant Killer

IN no mood of mockery but in a spirit of sympathy do we apply to our newly inaugurated President (to whom may the Gods be kind, for a Dawes lurks in the offing) the name of our childhood's hero, who doughtily pursued to their frowning castles the giants of his day, armored only in his shining innocence and girt with his trusty sword. Sometimes, if our memory serves us, Jack woke the monsters unawares and such occurrences were of course more thrilling than those which were anticipated.

Recent events in Washington parallel closely the experiences of Jack. In pursuit of his well-beloved economy, the President had a glimpse of an economic idea. He saw that the reason why the Federal employees were demanding more pay, was that their rents had risen, and being logical-minded he possibly visioned a rise of wages followed by another rise in rents and so ad infinitum, with the taxpayers ultimately rising in their wrath and smiting him, the President, for failure to redeem his promises—that is of course if taxpayers ever did such things—of which there is no evidence in modern times. The modern idea is not to resent taxes but to proceed to find some one else from whom the money may be snatched wherewith to pay them—giving "beggar-my-neighbor" a demonstration in actual life.

Under these circumstances what does the President do? Naturally being a loyal Republican in heart and mind,

or whatever organ does duty for the latter, he seeks legislation to prevent rents from rising.

It is told of a Czar, who believed in his own omnipotence, that having become interested in railroads, he drew a line on a map, connecting St. Petersburg and Moscow and directed that a railroad should be constructed between these two points. Although it entailed great expense and was quite uneconomic, the line was built. Later being irritated by the fall of the rouble he directed that its value be stabilized, but his ministers were forced to tell him, that, in the then existing state of the finances, his orders could not be enforced. He was enraged but he learned his lesson. President Coolidge has yet to learn that rent can not be permanently confined by legislation, even though, under emergency conditions, rent restrictions have worked at the few points where they have been tried.

The President's attempt to deal with the problem has furnished an admirable object lesson if the people were wise enough to learn it—or indeed any lesson. No sooner had the word gone forth that the President had laid his hands on the Ark of the Covenant there arose throughout the land a sound as of a mighty wind—and it was largely wind, but it made a great noise. From every point of the compass came the sound of the marching men, singing "We are coming, Father Calvin, a hundred thousand strong" realtors and speculators, the serried ranks of special privilege; but they did not call him "Father Abraham"; they likened him to Lenin and Trotsky and La Follette. Jack tried to keep a brave face behind the railings of the White House, but Blunderbone strode abroad through Washington and made the welkin ring with appeals for the widows and orphans, who, on such occasions turn out to be the principal beneficiaries of all the special privileges in the United States.

Gradually the violence of the storm sobbed itself away into silence, probably on assurances from high quarters, that the Ball bill had not the proverbial "Chinaman's chance." It never was reported or voted upon. Needless to say that we have no sympathy with any proposal to determine rentals by a commission, but we hail with joy this demonstration to the people, who may think that salvation from their crushing burdens lies in the direction of government regulation. Not until all the false prophets have been discredited—and there are more of them than you can shake a stick at—will there be a chance for the true voice to be heard. Rent can not be suppressed, but it can be devoted to public uses instead of swelling the already bursting coffers of plutocracy.

AUTHORITY coincides as to the law of rent. This accepted theory of the law of rent is called Ricardo's law of rent. "The rent of land is determined by the excess of its produce over that which the same application can secure from the least productive land in use."

—HENRY GEORGE.