

## Stephen Bell

On July 5, 1945, in a little country cemetery in Millburn, New Jersey, Stephen Bell, who died on July 1st at the age of 81, was laid to rest. Lawson Purdy, president of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation and a long-time friend of the deceased, read from the last chapter of PROGRESS AND POVERTY.

Stephen Bell, since his youth a staunch advocate of the principles of Henry George, was born of early American stock on a farm near Port Jervis, New York, in 1864. He was educated in the country school, and when he was sixteen, went to work in the office of The Passaic Daily News. From there he went to The Sun and other New York newspapers as compositor and then proofreader. In 1917 he joined the editorial staff of Commerce and Finance, a business weekly where, for twenty years, his articles on international economics attracted much favorable comment, both here and abroad.

Mr. Bell knew Henry George and Dr. Edward McGlynn, and throughout the long controversy which resulted in the excommunication of the priest and his final restoration to the priesthood, Mr. Bell's sympathies were on the side of Father McGlynn. After the priest died, Bell came into possession of his friend's desk, and it was this large, stained, work table which he used for the last twenty years of his business career. In 1936, at a luncheon meeting attended by Bell and his friends, the late Charles O'Connor Hennessy and David Gibson, also veteran Georgists, it was decided that Bell should write a biography of Father McGlynn and as a result of this conversation, when he died shortly afterwards, Mr. Hennessy left a small legacy to assist the publication of such a work. The book was published in 1937 under the

title of "Rebel, Priest and Prophet."

Mr. Bell is survived by his wife and two sons, both of whom, like their father, are followers of the principles of Henry George.