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The Premises of Political Economy; Being a Re-Examination of Certain Fundamental Principles of Economic Science (Paperback)

By Simon Nelson Patten

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Excerpt: . CHAPTER VIII. THE MEANS OF MAINTAINING A HIGH STANDARD OF LIFE. It has long been a current maxim that the use of cheap food is destructive of a high standard of life, and keeping in mind the facts proven in the preceding chapters, it is easy to see. why such an opinion should be prevalent. The cheap kinds of food are those whose production requires the least skill and capital, and hence a lower class of labor is employed than is possible where more intelligence is requisite. Wherever nature does much and man but little, a low class of laborers can accomplish all that is to be done. The more intelligent classes, as the price of food rises above what they can pay, gradually disappear, leaving society made up of two distinct classes, the very rich and powerful on the one hand, the...



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