

Nor. 1. 29

CRIPPS'S CORNER,

FOREST ROW,

SUSSEX.

My dear Fisher.

I did not answer your "argumentative" letter, as time did not permit - or I was lazy. I wish we could have a real good jaw over some of these points. I don't hold out strongly about tropical forests, and would only make two points. Do not both the Ganges & Yang-tse valleys have cool seasons? Then it seems to me that the very luxuriance of growth in the all round hot & damp climate seems to increase the

difficult of cultivation, and
would make it only possible
at a low standard of living.
But I don't feel sure. As to
your bricks and food, the difficulty
seems to me to lie in the fact
that the amount of food wanted
per head is strictly limited, whilst
the amount of goods which might
help to raise the standard of
living, including leisure, is quite
unlimited. Calculate the percentage
of a section a naked savage spends
on his food and on other things,
and the same with civilized
persons, and my point would
stand out. Each item of food
may not have been helped more

than separate items of other things. I am looking at food as a whole versus other things as a whole. The question seems to me to be to what extent the population can be increased whilst maintaining our standard of living. The land at the margin of cultivation must be one important factor. I have no doubt a considerable increase can slowly be made by more correct land being made available, but am inclined to think that the possibilities have been much exaggerated. As to unemployment, as far as I can see no one would be unemployed if all would take the best pay they could get. It is all a question of keeping up the standard of living. Surely if bad land is cultivated and bad

trades carried on it absorbs the
unemployed in a useful manner,
but it does not allow unemployment
to act as a regulator to prevent
a fall in the standard. Now I
had intended to have said
nothing, and now I have jotted
down some half baked thoughts.
As to free trade, we should have
a fine fight, for some of your
reasons for are my reasons
against! Those I admit, know,
that free traders generally
over-stroke their case. Some of
the indirect results would be
the worst, e.g. political corruption
to the bone etc etc!

Yours sincerely
L. Dawson