

What Free Trade Means

FREE TRADE MEANS more than lower tariff barriers or reciprocal trade treaties. It means men are free to trade with anyone they choose, without let or hindrance on the part of other men; and without tax or toll or treaties or agreements on the part of their own government. Free to take goods out or bring goods in when and where they will without the concern of anyone except themselves.



The idea that when we lower our tariff we concede something, grant a concession or favor to the other country, is false. It implies that we sacrifice something; it implies that tariffs are good for us.

The protectionist is like a benevolent bandit on the home front who takes less of your goods than he has power to take, as when he lowers the tariff. And his big heart takes in the foreign country too, for he will not take less of your goods unless the foreign government agrees to confiscate less goods of their own traders.

Obviously such procedure bears no relation to free trade.

H. W. NOREN