

C 7295 7

once expelled the Portuguese & Latin control of the Indies
There immediately sprang up in most of towns of Holland
associations of merchants for carrying on the trade. These
were with difficulty united in 1602 receiving a charter
from gov't, but origin of Co. out of united associations
long left its traces in the East India Co. It was
composed of 6 chambers, Amsterdam, Prov. of Zealand
(=town of Middelburg) West Friesland, Rotterdam, Enkhuizen
Each of these chambers had its own separate
block of shares & at first each chamber took
charge of getting out of its own ships & its own
purchases & sales. The chief shareholders in each
place selected a small no of persons from among
whom the burgomasters of each town chose
the directors, proportioned in no. accord to im-
portance of town making in all 60 of wh 17 were
chief directors. In this way the organization of the
East India Co. resembled substantially the organs
of the city. Holland was a city where town life
predominated over city, town people already half
of the people & the several towns retained a large
amount of autonomy, so that federate of united Provinces
of Netherlands was practically a federate of towns
& so the organization of East India Co was a federate
of town chambers;

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers
Volume C 11