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THE ELDER STATESMEN.

"The five wise men of Japan" is the title of an interesting article in the Examiner been in that direction wherever the law alby Helen A. Gardner, who is in Tokio for the San Francisco paper. We Americans ing company to get together indirectly hear much about the elder statesmen, as they are called, but have only a vague idea of their functions. The Examiner's writer of anti-trust laws. It was especially a hapsays of them:

by the elder statesmen, who must be constantly referred to in all affairs connected with the policy and control of Japan. They are not members of the cabinet. They hold both the cabinet and the official staff.

There are five of them at the present time They are the ex-prime ministers who have served Japan with wisdom and loyalty in the past in office.

Upon their retirement from office it is felt that the country has need of their accumulated wisdom, and she retains them as ing company, and then let who would own advisers to the emperor; himself a very able man, deeply revered and beloved by his subjects who believe him to be the tion system of the country by a few men if earth.

quis Oyama and Count Inouye.

statesmen and the cabinet been to resort to condemnation. arms in their contest with Russia that many would subject Japan to the contempt of nancing are the real conservatives. was weak, vacilliating or afraid.

country.

emperor and the elder statesmen to be wis-beginning to realize it. est and most hopeful in the interest of a peaceful conclusion of the negotiations; or, if war must be the result, to prove to the American dentist. Perhaps he wishes to world that Japan had done all in her power make gas while the Japs and Russians fight to avert it.

Meantime one often hears the anxious and sincere question from the younger men, "What does your country, what do the bookmakers will find it difficult to induce strong foreign countries, really think of any one to put money on the democratic Japan's delay? She has waited two years dark horse. for Russia to keep her solemn pledge. Does not your country think that is weak?"

ing the blow that may easily involve the world.

A CHECK TO SOCIALISM.

President Mellen, of the New York, New negroes have been put to death near Haven and Hartford apparently agrees with those who a year or so ago were saying that Messrs. Hill and Morgan were the chief missionaries of socialism in this country. He is quoted as saying that if the able negroes have been slain and no Northern Securities merger had been up-further trouble is tooked for. held and had resulted in a combination of the railroads of the country through the device of a holding company, "government control and ownership would have ensued, and such could not fail to be deplorable, politically and financially."

That the establishment of the merger, legality would have been followed by at least a gradual consolidation of the railroads scarcely admits of a doubt, says the New York Tribune. The tendency for years has lows; and the lawyers' invention of the hold railroads which were directly forbidden to combine was exactly the instrument suited to the consolidation of all railroads in spite py device, since it enabled those who started It may be as well to explain what is meant out in momentary command of a railroad situation to extend their control indefinitely without permanent ownership. A bare majority of a holding company would for all time control two railroads only a bare majority of whose stock was owned by the no fixed office, but they are in a sense above company. That fraction might still further be reduced by merely owning control of a holding company which in turn owned a majority of the stock of one or more of the original holding companies. It would be necessary to put in money enough to get control of railroad systems, one by one, to add to those already combined, put the control of the property in the hands of a holdthe greater part of the actual property.

Obviously there was no legal obstacle to such complete dominion of the transportaablest and most incorrupaible ruler on the the Northern Securities Company had been sustained. Obviously also no such absolute It is as if our ex-secretaries of state, war mastery of the business of the country by and finance, who had served with marked private individuals would have been tolerdistinction and ability, irrespective of able. The only outcome would have been party could be called at any time as advis- national control of the railroads. The priers to and with the president in his recom- vate holders who could thus triumph over mendations to the cabinet and to congress. the law forbidding consolidation would pos-The system is designed to hold for the na- sess a power rivalling that of government tion its ripest wisdom and enlist in her be- itself. No matter how reasonable and conhalf, to the end of their lives, the loyal ad-servative the private management might be, vice and help of her strongest and best the demand for government control would be irresistible. The private capitalists At the present time they are Marquis Ito, would find that they had simply brought the Marquis Yamagata, Count Matsukata, Mar railroads into a system gigantic enough to point a moral for socialist agitators, and so So hesitant have the emperor, these elder united as to be convenient for purpose of

From this point of view it is clear that of the stronger young men have blamed not the leaders of Wall street but those who cept Sun Portland and Way them bitterly and felt that their course attacked this newest scheme of railroad fithem bitterly and felt that their course attacked this newest scheme of railroad fithe nation, who would get the idea that she decision of the supreme court is a great practical barrier to the spread of a social-Out of the situation grew the extraordi- istic movement which would have meant the Beach, Tloga and North Beach points. nary reply, by the newly elected president transformation of our government. Noof the diet, to the emperor at the convening body devoted to the traditions of the Amerof that body a few weeks ago-the first time ican constitution can contemplate without Through tickets to and from all printhat such a thing ever happened in Japan. dismay the idea of the mastery of the rail-Some of the radical men wanted to make roads of the whole country being centered sure that the emperor was not misled by the in Washington, with their thousands of emcounsel of a too conservative body of ad-ployes, holding all private enterprise in visers so that he did not realize the existing their grip, made a part of the government sentiment of the people. They took that machine. Either the railroad employes method of calling his personal attention to would themselves be the dominant political what they believed to be the demands of the power, or they would be the tools of the political managers for the subjugation of the As all the world knows the result was the people. Yet such a system would be ineviinstant dissolution of the diet before all of table, and perhaps desirable, as an alternaits members had been even sworn in, some tive to an irresponsible private control of having delayed en route from their homes. these great highways, with their powers of This drastic action of the emperor has working good or ill to the whole states. undoubtedly enabled the cabinet to conduct That is what the supreme court has happily its diplomatic work on the lines felt by the saved us from, and conservative finance is

> The emperor of Corea has sent for an over his territory.

> During the presidential war next fall the

Whenever a Mormon returns home late But then it is not upon them that weighs at night he can give the excuse that he was the great, the terrible responsibility of strik visiting his other wife.

NO MORE TROUBLE.

As All the Bad Negroes Are Dead Quiet Has Been Restored. Dewitt, Ark., March 26 .- Two mor St. Charles, making 11 negroes in all that have been killed as the result of rioting which began last Monday. All is quiet tonight at St. Charles, as I is believed that most of the objection-



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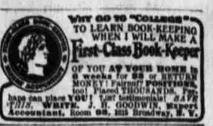
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