Medford MailTribune
 Ufficial Paper of the City of Medtord.

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## STRIKING AT THE MAGAZINES

Postmaster General Hitchcock, backed up by President Taft, has recommended an increase in the present rate of postage on magazines and other periodicals now carried at second-class rates. It is claimed that the carrying of these magazines is done at an actual loss to the government, and that while the postoffice department receives little more than a cent a pound, the cost averages 9.23 cents in order to make up the deficit.
The express companies now carry magazines at a cent a pound and are able thereby to make money. There is no government increases the price of second-class matter, it will have the effect of diverting the carriage of magazines from the mail to the express companies, thus lessening the receipts of the postoffice department without decreasing what it pays for transportation.
The trouble with the postoffice department and the cause of the loss is not the newspaper and magazine business, but the excessive rates paid railroads for postal transportation, an imposition ong established and maintal of postal cars, where the department pays an annual tal of postal cars, where the deparment pays an a meth od of securing the average weight of the mails: in fact, in od of securing the average weight of the mails; in act, in is needed with a big R.
The federal census report shows that the average rate haul was 60 cents per hundred pounds against an average of $\$ 6.68$ for hauling mails, not including the rental of postal cards. The average rental of a postal car is $\$ 6500$ while the cost is less than $\$ 4500$.
In their defense the magazines assert that it is wrong that a thousand publishing industries buit up through thirty years of an established postal rate as the basis of their business operations should be periodically attacked with propositions that would annihilate most of them, when there is no exact, or approximately exact, knowledge behind these propositions.
competent cost expert to work in the postoffice depart ment, and that this expert shall be given full opportunit to get what the department has never produced, the facts and figures which show just how much the second-class mail is costing the government in excess of the revenue it produces.

## ASHLAND AND WESTON NORMALS.

As the Monmouth normal has decided to cast off its allegiance with the Ashland and Weston schools and go it alone, it is up to Ashland and Weston, southern and eastern Oregon, to unite forces and prepare a joint bill for submission to the people for the support of both institutions. The question will then be fairly before the people, whether or not they will show discrimination against southern and eastern Oregon

Of course the Oregonian and the Willamette valley mossbacks will bitterly oppose any proposal looking building up schools or state institutions outside of Wil lamette valley, which to them is all Oregon, but it is as
good a time now as ever to place them on record, and there are excellent grounds for the surmise that the progressiv people of eastern and southern Oregon together will out vote the reactionary mossbacks.

As a compromise, to secure the support of the Orego-

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