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14149  
Decision No. ~~14132~~

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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In the Matter of Application of  
SOUTHERN PACIFIC COMPANY for an  
order authorizing discontinuance  
of agency at Nelson Station, County  
of Butte, State of California.

) ORIGINAL )

:Application No. 10,136  
)

L. B. Young and V. S. Andrus for Applicant.

C. E. Duell for Chico Chamber of Commerce, Pro-  
testant.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

Southern Pacific Company, a corporation, has petitioned the Railroad Commission for an order authorizing the discontinuance of its agency station at Nelson in Butte County on its Sacramento Division until such time as sufficient additional traffic shall have been developed to justify the re-establishment of the agency.

A public hearing on this application was conducted by Examiner Handford at Chico at which time the matter was duly submitted and is now ready for decision.

Applicant alleges that the operation of Nelson as an agency station is unremunerative; and that the operation of the station as a non-agency will furnish adequate service to the public until such time as sufficient additional traffic will be developed which will justify the re-opening of the agency.

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Statistical statements filed as exhibits attached to the application show the following data for the year ending February 29, 1924:

<u>Agents Ticket Sales</u>	\$	486.00	
<u>Less-than-carload Freight</u>			
Received	\$	1031.00	
Forwarded		<u>183.00</u>	1214.00
<u>Car Load Freight</u>			
Received	\$	965.00	
Forwarded		<u>13847.00</u>	<u>14812.00</u>
Total	\$		16512.00

Statements filed as exhibits at the hearing show the following data as covering the revenue for the year ending July 31, 1924:

<u>Agents Ticket Sales</u>	\$	372.00	
<u>Less-than-carload Freight</u>			
Received	\$	939.00	
Forwarded		<u>202.00</u>	1141.00
<u>Car Load Freight</u>			
Received	\$	1821.00	
Forwarded		<u>15799.00</u>	<u>17620.00</u>
Total	\$		19133.00

The average monthly expense for the salary of the agent and miscellaneous station supplies is \$129.00 or \$1548.00 annually.

The services of an agent are principally needed in the handling of passenger business and less-than-carload freight and for the yearly period ending July 31, 1924, the expense of maintaining an agent has amounted to 102.31% of the revenue received from such sources, and to 8.091% of the total revenue from all railroad business handled at this station.

Although notice of hearing was by order of the Commission duly advertised in the public press and posted at the station there was no appearance in protest against the granting of the application except by the Chico Chamber of Commerce. This

organization presented a resolution protesting the granting of the application on the basis that Nelson is an important shipping point for hay, grain, rice and livestock originating at or near that point and that the proposed discontinuance of an agent would be a serious inconvenience to business interests at Chico who are shippers to such station.

The record of business transacted at Nelson as hereinabove shown is conclusive that the revenue received does not justify the expense of the continued maintenance of an agency, the expense amounting to more than the revenue derived from the passenger business and the less-than-carload freight-both received and forwarded- and being unreasonable as to the total amount received from all business handled. From the record in this proceeding, we are of the opinion and hereby find as a fact that the business heretofore transacted at the station of Nelson does not justify the continued maintenance of an agency station and that the application should be granted in accordance with the provisions of the following order.

#### O R D E R

A public hearing having been held in the above entitled proceeding, the matter having been duly submitted, the Commission being now fully advised and basing its order on the finding of fact as appearing in the opinion which precedes this order,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that applicant Southern Pacific Company, a corporation, be and it hereby is authorized to

discontinue the maintenance and operation of an agency station at Nelson in Butte County on its Sacramento Division and to hereafter maintain and operate said station as a non-agency station until the further order of this Commission, and that the effective date of this order is hereby fixed as ten (10) days from the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 9<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1924.

P. J. Leary  
H. H. Bondage  
Darius M. Martin  
J. L. Whitney  
Commissioners