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Decision No. 14413

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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In the Matter of the Application of)
SOUTHERN PACIFIC COMPANY for an)
order authorizing discontinuance of :Application No. 10667
its agency at Benton Station, County)
of Mono, State of California.)

BY THE COMMISSION:

ORDER

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

Applicant alleges that the business now transacted at Benton is unremunerative and does not warrant the continued maintenance of an agent; that it is the intention of applicant to establish an agency station at Mt. Montgomery, Nevada, a distance of 17.9 miles east of Benton, provided authority is granted for the discontinuance of the Benton agency; and that the future maintenance of Benton as a

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non-agency station will furnish adequate service to the public until such time as additional traffic shall have been developed to an extent justifying the restoration of the agency.

Statistical statements filed as exhibits attached to and forming a part of the application and covering the record of business transacted during the year ending August 31, 1924, show that the expense of the agent's salary and station supplies for such period has amounted to over 41 per cent of the total revenue derived from the amount received from ticket sales and from revenue from less-than-carload freight, both received and forwarded. The carload revenue was derived principally from shipments of cement, machinery and pipe destined to Benton for the construction work of three hydro-electric power companies and an irrigation company. The outgoing carload shipments are in small volume and consist of cattle, sheep and cordwood. The facilities for which the public relies upon the services of an agent are those arising from the passenger business and the handling of less-than-carload freight when received and forwarded. The volume of such classes of business, according to the exhibits herein, is not sufficient to justify the expenditure required for the maintenance of the agency station and an undue burden is placed on other shippers and receivers of freight by reason of agents being maintained at stations where the amount of business transacted is not sufficient to justify the expense incurred.

After full consideration of this application and the accompanying statistical exhibits we are of the opinion that

this is a matter in which a public hearing is not necessary and that in view of the fact that the expense of maintaining the agency is not justified by the volume of traffic handled and the revenue derived therefrom that the application should be granted,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that applicant, Southern Pacific Company, a corporation, be and the same hereby is authorized to discontinue the maintenance of an agent at its station of Benton in Mono County on its Salt Lake Division and to hereafter maintain and operate said Benton Station as a non-agency station until the further order or direction of this Commission.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 27th day of December, 1924.

W. H. Murray

Irving MacLean
Robert Shore

J. H. Whitney
Commissioners