

Decision No. 20452

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of)
 SOUTHERN PACIFIC COMPANY for authority)
 to close agency at Springville Station,) Application
 County of Tulare, State of California.) No.14681

In the Matter of the Application of)
 the AMERICAN RAILWAY EXPRESS COMPANY)
 for authority to abandon its agency) Application
 at Springville, County of Tulare,) No.14864
 State of California.)

ORIGINAL

A.B. Mason, for Southern Pacific Company, Applicant in Application No.14681.

A.S.Weston, for The American Railway Express Company, Applicant in Application No.14864.

J.W. Snodgrass, for Roy E. Vincent, Protestant.

K. Dutton, for W.R. Neal, Southern California Edison Company, San Joaquin Light and Power Company, Protestants.

W. S. Mc Lean, Protestant.

A. W. Patton, for Springville Chamber of Commerce, Protestant.

W. J. Taylor, Protestant,

J. B. Dundore, Protestant.

Mr. Foster, for Tulare and Kern County Tubercular Hospital, Protestant.

BY THE COMMISSION -

O P I N I O N

In Application No.14681, Southern Pacific Company, a corporation, has petitioned the Railroad Commission for an order authorizing the closing of its agency station at Springville on the Porterville-Springville Branch of its San Joaquin Division in Tulare County.

In Application No.14864, American Railway Express Company, a corporation, has petitioned the Railroad Commission for an order authorizing the closing of its agency at Springville, Tulare County, and for the elimination of Springville from its agency record.

A public hearing on these applications was conducted by Examiner Handford at Porterville at which time the matters were consolidated for the receiving of evidence and decision, were duly submitted and are now ready for decision.

Applicant Southern Pacific Company alleges the agency at Springville is unremunerative and its continued maintenance is unnecessary.

A comparison of the business handled at this station, as abstracted from an exhibit filed by applicant at the hearing shows the following data:

	<u>Year Ending</u>	
	<u>June, 1927</u>	<u>June, 1928</u>
Passenger Revenue	\$ 1.00	\$ 5.00
L.C.L. Freight (Forwarded (and received.	<u>1909.00</u>	<u>1543.00</u>
Total Passenger and L.C.L. Freight Revenue	1910.00	1548.00
Carload Freight	<u>3585.00</u>	<u>6394.00</u>
Total Revenue	\$ 5495.00	\$7942.00
Station Expense		1812.00

Percentage of Passenger and less than carload freight revenue required to care for station expense (based on 1928 station expense) 1927 - 94.87%; 1928 - 117.05%

Percentage of Total Revenue required to care for station expense (based on 1928 station expense) 1927 - 32.98%; 1928 - 22.81%.

The increase in the carload revenue in 1928 was occasioned by highway construction material forwarded to Springville, and such ^{are} shipments/not a normal movement.

Springville is served by a tri-weekly mixed train service, operating on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

The granting of the application is protested by the Springville Chamber of Commerce and receivers of freight at such station. The protestants allege that the removal of the agent will result in difficulty in the receipt of freight which will require prepayment at the point of origin and will be delivered at owner's risk on arrival at Springville, and that confusion will result in the delivery of shipments by being placed in the freight warehouse without agency protection.

After full consideration of the record regarding this application and the protests of patrons using the freight facilities, we are of the opinion and hereby conclude that the continued maintenance of an agent is warranted and that the service of an agent should not be withdrawn at this time.

Applicant American Railway Express Company alleges that its agency at Springville has been conducted as a joint agency with the Southern Pacific Company; and that in the event of the closing of the Southern Pacific agency it will be necessary to close the express agency, no other person having been found available to handle the express agency due to the limited volume of business and compensation.

By reason of the conclusion that the services of an agent should be retained for the business of the Southern Pacific Company, the joint agency arrangement should be continued and, therefore, the application of American Railway Express Company will be dismissed.

O R D E R

A public hearing having been held on the above entitled applications, the matters having been consolidated for the purpose of receiving evidence and for decision, having been duly submitted, the Commission being now fully advised and basing its order on the conclusion as appearing in the opinion which precedes this order,

