

Decision No. 21214.

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

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In the Matter of the Application of
LAWRENCE WAREHOUSE COMPANY, a corpora-
tion, for a Certificate declaring that
Public Convenience and Necessity re-
quires and will require the transaction
of a cold storage warehouse business under
and pursuant to the provisions of the
Public Utilities Act of the State of
California, and particularly under and
pursuant to the provisions of Section 50½
of said Act.

ORIGINAL

Application No. 15543.

Reginald L. Vaughan, for Applicant.

McCutchen, Olney, Mannon & Greene
by Carl I. Wheat, for Oakland Ice
and Cold Storage Company.

E. G. Wilcox, for Oakland Chamber of
Commerce.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

The Railroad Commission is asked to make its order declaring that public convenience and necessity require the operation by Lawrence Warehouse Company of a cold storage warehouse business in the city of Oakland. A public hearing was held before Examiner Gannon at Oakland at which time the matter was submitted and is now ready for decision.

Applicant is engaged in the business of a warehouseman as that term is defined in Section 2(am) and Section 2½ of the Public Utilities Act with tariffs on file with the Commission, and operates, among other warehouses, the Gibson

Terminal located at the corner of Water and Webster Streets in the city of Oakland. It is proposed to convert a portion of the Gibson Terminal into a cold storage plant and for the purpose of engaging in this character of business applicant applies to the Commission for authorization.

The application recites that Gibson Terminal is located in the heart of the commission and wholesale fruit and vegetable district of Oakland, and that large quantities of fruits, vegetables and other perishable products are received daily, a goodly portion of which require cold storage as a means of preservation. No such facilities are now conveniently at hand and applicant has received numerous requests for service such as is here proposed. Rates and tariffs proposed to be charged are set forth in schedules attached to the application.

Gibson Terminal is owned by Gibson Properties Company which is constructing the cold storage plant and proposes to lease same to applicant. The estimated cost is between \$135,000 and \$150,000 with storage space of approximately 30,000 square feet.

To support its application Lawrence Warehouse Company produced three witnesses who testified they would make use of the facilities offered. These were all engaged in the wholesale handling of fruits, vegetables, poultry, eggs and general produce. One of these witnesses testified that he had discontinued the cold storage of eggs because there was presently no available storage space in Oakland. Another usually stores from fifteen to twenty thousand boxes of apples

and would give applicant probably half of this business. The third witness is required to store his goods elsewhere because of lack of convenient facilities and would give applicant approximately 40% of his business which would amount to fifteen or twenty thousand boxes of fruits and vegetables.

The traffic manager of the Oakland Chamber of Commerce testified on behalf of applicant, and stated that as a result of his investigation he was satisfied present cold storage facilities were inadequate and that there was a demand for additional service. New canneries are constantly coming into Oakland which require additional cold storage space, and Oakland Ice and Cold Storage Company, the only other facility, is usually filled to capacity.

Applicant also produced as a witness a refrigerating engineer in charge of the new cold storage plant, now practically completed. He described the construction of the plant and the general lay-out of the terminal as to its convenience to merchants and its rail and water facilities.

Oakland Ice and Cold Storage Company was represented at the hearing by counsel but did not oppose the granting of the application.

A review of the evidence herein presented leads us to believe that public convenience and necessity will be served by the granting of the application and it will be so ordered.

ORDER

A public hearing having been held in the above entitled proceeding and the matter having been submitted,

THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA hereby declares that public convenience and necessity require the operation by Lawrence Warehouse Company of a cold storage warehouse business in the City of Oakland, at Water and Webster Streets, and that the initial tariff be filed as per Exhibit "A" attached to and made part of the application.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that a certificate of public convenience and necessity authorizing the above service be and the same is hereby granted to Lawrence Warehouse Company.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 10th day of June, 1929.

Thos O. Lott
Al. L. Lott
Ernest Lott
Leon Whittell

Commissioners.

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