Decision No. <u>21472</u>.

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY for an order euthorizing the discontinuance of its telegraph office at Angels Camp, California.

Application No. 15,619.

A. H. May and J. B. Norcross, for Applicant,
G. B. Wood, Mayor and G. B. Bennett, Clerk, for City of Angels Camp,
J. A. Tower, for Angels Camp,
Jesse Mayo, for Calaveras County,
D. G. Kirby, for Kirby Development Company,
L. Monte-Verda, for Carson Hills Gold Mines, Calaveras Copper Company, Calaveras Iron and Steel Company, Douglas Flat Mining Company, Massoni Mining Company and Mah Jahn Mining Company.

BY THE COMMISSION:

## OPINION

The Western Union Telegraph Company, herein requests an order authorizing the discontinuance of its telegraph office at Angels Camp, California.

A public hearing was held in this matter before Examiner Satterwhite in Angels Comp on June 26, 1929, when interested parties were heard, testimony was received, and the matter submitted for decision.

Mr. A. H. May, District Superintendent of The Western Union Telegraph Company testified that telegraph receipts of the

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Angels Camp office have been decreasing in the last few years and have averaged but \$88.00 per month for the last six months, whereas, the local operating expenses of the office have averaged \$106.00 per month and the general expense is estimated as about \$30.00 additional.

The witness stated that 80% of the Western Union messages sent from Angels Camp are intrastate and that The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company also renders a telegraph service throughout the State of California. Applicant does not ask authority to discontinue telegraph service in Angels Camp but desires to extend its Sonora service to include the Angels Camp area by means of an Angels Camp telephone service in its Sonora office. Mr. May stated that an agent would be secured in Angels Camp to receive and deliver messages for and to the transient and non-telephone-subscriber public. Western Union telegraph charges for messages originated from telephone subscriber stations will be included on The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company's bills as at present.

Written objections to the discontinuance of the Western Union office and service were filed at the hearing in behalf of the City of Angels, Angels Boosters' Club and San Andreas Progressive Club. Testimony was given that some years ago, particularly from 1914 to 1930, the telegraph business originated in Angels Camp and vicinity was materially greater than at present. The record of this proceeding shows that statements were made at the hearing that mines in this territory, which have been shut down for some years, are about to resume operation, and that other industries are expected to be in operation within the next few months which will result in the telegraph business at Angels Camp being very greatly increased.

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The change in applicant's method of rendering telegraph service in Angels Camp is dependent upon the installation of an Angels Camp Exchange telephone service in the Western Union office in Sonora and the record indicates that ninety (90) days time will be required by the Telephone Company to complete an order for such service.

We believe that the requests of protestants should be given proper consideration and that a few months time should elapse before the proposed change is consummated, and the order following will so provide. If the expected increase in originating telegraph, business at the Angels Camp office does not materialize applicant is entitled to the relief requested.

## ORDER

The Western Union Telegraph Company having made application to the Railroad Commission for an order authorizing the discontinuance of its telegraph office at Angels Camp, a public hearing having been held in the proceeding, and the matter having been submitted for decision,

The Railroad Commission hereby finds as a fact that the Western Union Telegraph Company should be granted an order authorizing the discontinuance of its Angels Camp telegraph office, and basing its order on the foregoing finding of fact and such other findings of fact as may appear in the opinion preceding this order, therefore,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that The Western Union Telegraph Company may discontinue its Angels Camp telegraph office provided,

1. Angels Camp telegraph office is discontinued not leter than February 28, 1930, but not before <u>Manual Let 1</u>,1929.

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2. An agency is established at Angels Camp effective for telegraph service on and after the date of the discontinuance of the Angels Camp office.

3. Angels Camp telephone service is established in the Sonora office of The Western Union Telegraph Company on or before the date of the discontinuance of the Angels Camp telegraph office.

4. The Western Union Telegraph Company files with the Railroad Commission for each month, beginning with July, 1929, and extending until December, 1929, an itemized statement, in form satisfactory to the Railroad Commission, of the telegraph business, receipts and expenses of its Angels Camp telegraph office.

For all other purposes the effective date of this order shall be twenty (20) days from and after the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this <u>20<sup>17</sup></u> day of <u>ungust</u>,1929.