

Decision No. 21473.

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

**ORIGINAL**

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF  
THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY  
for an order authorizing the dis-  
continuance of its telegraph office  
at Sutter Creek, California.

Application No. 15,618.

- A. H. May and J. B. Norcross,  
for applicant,
- C. E. Richards,  
for Citizens of Sutter Creek,
- D. V. Ramazzotti,  
for Sutter Creek,
- L. J. Malatesta, Supervisor 4th District,  
for Amador County.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

In the above entitled matter, the Western Union Telegraph Company requests the Railroad Commission for authority to discontinue its telegraph office at Sutter Creek.

A public hearing was held in this matter before Examiner Satterwhite, in Jackson, on June 25, 1929, at which time opportunity was afforded interested parties to be heard, and there and then the matter was submitted for decision.

A. H. May, District Superintendent of The Western Union Telegraph Company, as a witness, submitted data to show that the total receipts of the Sutter Creek office averaged \$56.00 per month for the last six months and that the average expenses for manager's salary, janitor's wages, office rent, telephone service and miscellaneous expenditures totaled \$99.00 per month on the average for the same six months period. The witness estimated that the general and overhead expenses amounted to as much as 35% of the receipts of the office. The testimony shows that Western Union service is not proposed to be withdrawn from Sutter Creek but is

to be continued under a different plan of operation. At present applicant has a Morse operator at Sutter Creek who there receives the telegraph business of the public of Sutter Creek and vicinity and also that from the public of Jackson and vicinity, telephonically, from the Western Union agent at Jackson over a Western Union private wire. It is proposed to transfer the Morse operator to the Jackson office and to secure a Sutter Creek Exchange telephone service in the Jackson office. All Sutter Creek telephone subscribers could then telephone their telegrams to the Morse operator at Jackson, the charge for such telegrams so telephoned being added to The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company's monthly bill for telephone service, and the telegraph rates and charges remaining as at present. An agency would be established at Sutter Creek where the transient public and non-telephone-subscribers could transact their telegraph business with applicant. Mr. May testified that approximately ninety (90) per cent of Sutter Creek messages are received by telephone, that the availability of telegraph service will be increased for the reason that the telephone office is open a greater proportion of the twenty four hour day than is the Sutter Creek telegraph office. This witness also stated that eighty-two (82) per cent of its Sutter Creek messages are intra-state and that The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company also offers telegraph service throughout California.

Mr. C. E. Richards submitted a petition signed by citizens of Sutter Creek requesting the Railroad Commission to deny the Western Union request to close its Sutter Creek office. It was developed, however, that these petitioners understood that all Western Union telegraph service was to be withdrawn from Sutter Creek and vicinity.

After due consideration of the facts and testimony before us we are of the opinion that the application herein should be granted for the reason that the revenue received from Western Union

customers at its Sutter Creek office is not sufficient to pay the expense of its operation, and for the further reason, that the telegraph requirements of the public should be well met under the proposed plan.

O R D E R

The Western Union Telegraph Company having made application for authority to discontinue its telegraph office at Sutter Creek, a public hearing having been held therein, the matter having been submitted and now being ready for decision,

The Railroad Commission of the State of California hereby finds as a fact that The Western Union Telegraph Company should be authorized to discontinue its Sutter Creek Office, and basing this order on the foregoing finding of fact and such other findings of fact as appear in the opinion which precedes this order, therefore:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that The Western Union Telegraph Company may discontinue its Sutter Creek office, provided

1. Sutter Creek telegraph office is discontinued on or before February 1, 1930.
2. An agency is established at Sutter Creek effective for service on and after the date of the discontinuance of the Sutter Creek office.
3. Sutter Creek exchange telephone service is established in The Western Union telegraph office in Jackson effective on or before the date of the discontinuance of the Sutter Creek 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 20th day of August 1929.

David S. Lovell

Ernest C. [unclear]

Leon [unclear]

M. A. Carr

Commissioners.