

EME

Decision No. 21589

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of the
RAILWAY EXPRESS AGENCY

for authority to abandon its free collection and delivery service at Maricopa, County of Kern, State of California.

} Application No. 15777.
}

Mark Thompson and Edward Stern,
for Applicant.
M. H. Lytle, for Exchange Club
of Maricopa, interested
party.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

By its Decision No. 21,383 in the above-entitled application, this Commission granted the same without hearing, authorizing the abandonment by applicant of its free delivery and collection service at Maricopa, Kern County. Subsequent to said action protests against the discontinuance of service were made by Karl Vander Horck, Manager of the Security Bank and Trust Company at Maricopa, and by the Maricopa Exchange Club. Upon receipt of these protests the Commission, on August 22, 1929, set aside its previous action and ordered that the proceeding be reopened for further hearing before Examiner Williams at Maricopa on September 10, 1929. At this hearing applicant presented fully verbal testimony and exhibits showing substantially the following facts:

During each year from 1924 to 1929 (to July 31st) the business of this company to and from Maricopa had shown a marked decline. In 1924 the revenue amounted to \$6221.67 and in 1928 was reduced to \$2719.76. During the first seven months of 1929 the volume of business amounted to \$1354.58, an average of \$193.51 per month as compared with \$518.47 in 1924. During the same period the number of shipments decreased annually from 5528 in 1924 to 1176 in 1929. The delivery expense, 1924-27, inclusive, was \$600.00 per year, being the amount paid the truckmen to perform pick-up and delivery service. Subsequent to this date the cost was at the rate of \$480.00 per year. The average cost per shipment increased from .1087 in 1924, to .2381 in 1929.

The foregoing figures were testified to by Mark Thompson, Division Superintendent of applicant, who also testified that the shipments during 1929 were 46½ per month, or an average of 1½ per day, and that the loss on the entire business averaged 10¢ per shipment.

Before the hearing date protests of both Mr. Vander Horck and the Exchange Club were withdrawn in writing. No others appeared at the hearing to make protest. Mr. Lytle, representing the Exchange Club, appeared and sought to bring about an arrangement by which the express company would pay the truckmen \$15.00 per month and the consignees would agree to pay 25¢ for delivery or pick-up of each shipment. The applicant was unwilling to enter into such an arrangement. In view of this failure of the parties to reach an agreement, and the record thoroughly justifying the discontinuance of the service, we are of the opinion that the order originally made in Decision No. 21,383, dated July 19, 1929, should be reinstated, without modification.

O R D E R

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the order heretofore made by this Commission by Decision No. 21,383, dated July 19, 1929, be, and the same hereby is readopted and reinstated as the order herein as follows:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that permission and authority be, and it is hereby granted to Railway Express Agency, a corporation, to abandon its free collection and delivery service in Maricopa, Kern County, California, and to eliminate reference to said service from its station records, provided, however, that ten (10) days' notice of the abandonment of said service shall be given to the public and to this Commission by said Railway Express Agency.

The authority herein granted shall become effective on the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 21st day of September, 1929.

Thomas D. Loretto

Clarence

W. J. Linn
Commissioners.