

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 21753.

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

In the Matter of the Application of the
NORTHWESTERN PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY
for authority to close agency at Kent-
field, County of Marin, State of
California.

Application No. 15865.

In the Matter of the Application of the
RAILWAY EXPRESS AGENCY for authority to
abandon its agency at Kentfield, County
of Marin, State of California.

Application No. 15902.

R. L. Hillebrand, for Northwestern
Pacific Railroad Company,
R. S. Elliott, for Railway Express
Agency,
Geo. H. Harlan, for Marin Junior
College and residents of
Kentfield.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

In Application No. 15865 Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company requests authority to close its agency at the station of Kentfield, Marin County, and in Application No. 15902, Railway Express Agency requests authority to close its agency at said station.

A public hearing in these matters was conducted by Examiner Satterwhite at Ross on September 17, 1929, at which time these matters were consolidated for hearing.

Kentfield is located on the electric line of North-western Pacific Railroad Company between Sausalito and San Anselmo. The nearest agencies to Kentfield are Larkspur, 1.3

miles south and Ross, 0.8 miles north, San Anselmo being located 1.8 miles north of Kentfield.

Applicant, Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company presented evidence to show that the amount of business transacted at Kentfield does not warrant the maintenance of an agent. Revenues derived at this station for the twelve months' period ending March 31, 1929, were as follows:

Passenger tickets, single roundtrip and commutation,	\$10,235.00
Carload freight, forwarded and received,	64.03
L.C.L. freight, forwarded and received,	459.34
Expense of maintaining agency,	\$1,669.77

The business of the Railway Express Agency is handled by the railroad company's agent on a commission. The earnings for the twelve months' period ending July 31, 1929, amounted to \$733.20, and the commission paid to the agent amounted to \$73.16, or an average of \$6.09 per month. An unsuccessful endeavor was made by the Express Agency to employ a local resident as express agent, therefore, in the event the railroad agency is discontinued, the express company desires to close its agency.

The granting of these applications was opposed by residents of Kentfield and the Marin Junior College, on the ground that the agent was a necessity to handle the railroad business and that the Marin Junior College is a growing concern and its business with the railroad and the express company is increasing.

It appears that Marin Junior College was established in 1926 and the enrollment has steadily increased since that time to about 300 at present.

The record shows that methods are now being used on the electric trains whereby all passenger tickets can be cared for by

the conductor and baggage can be checked on certain of those trains. With respect to carload business, it appears that this class of business can be handled without a resident agent. An agent's service, however, is most needed for the handling of L.C.L. freight but we find that the revenue from this class of business is relatively small, being less than \$750.00 per year.

It is apparent that some public benefit would accrue from the maintenance of an agent at this point to care for L.C.L. freight business and incidentally other agency business; however, this public service does not appear to justify the expense incident to maintaining such an agency when it is considered that the company maintains agencies within less than one mile in one direction and less than two miles in the other from this point with a paved highway paralleling the railroad throughout the territory.

After due consideration of all the evidence in these proceedings, it appears that the maintenance of an agent at Kentfield, by either the railroad or the express company, is not justifiable and that these applications should be granted.

O R D E R

Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company having made application to abandon its agency at Kentfield, Marin County, (Application No. 15865) and the Railway Express Agency having made like application (Application No. 15902), a public hearing having been held, the Commission being apprised of the facts, the matter being under submission and ready for decision, therefore,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that permission and authority be and it is hereby granted to Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company to remove and abandon its agency at the station of Kentfield, County

of Marin, subject, however, to the following conditions:

(1) Applicant shall maintain the station of Kentfield as a non-agency station.

(2) Applicant shall post notice at said station of Kentfield, notifying the public of the removal of said agent, for at least ten (10) days before said agent is removed.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that Railway Express Agency be and it is hereby authorized to abandon its agency at Kentfield, Marin County, provided, however, that said applicant's train messenger will receive express matter at car door and discharge prepaid express matter at said Kentfield Station.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 5th day of ~~October~~ ^{November}, 1929.

Thomas D. Lovett

Clarence

Ernest

M. J. [unclear]

Commissioners.