

Decision No. 25215.

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

In the Matter of the Application of
NORTHWESTERN PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY
for an order authorizing it to close
the agency at Alton Station, County of
Humboldt, State of California.

Application No. 18353.

ORIGINAL

BY THE COMMISSION:

O R D E R

Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company, a corporation, on August 19, 1932, applied for authority to close its agency at Alton Station on its main line in Humboldt County, State of California.

A study of the company's station records shows that \$843.49 passenger business was transacted at said station during the year ending April 30, 1932, and \$1,483.36 less-than-carload and \$8,848.00 carload business was transacted in the same period. The station expense for the same period amounted to \$2,268.81, or approximately the same amount as the revenue derived from the sale of passenger tickets and less-than-carload shipments. The carload business is confined to shipments of cattle, vetch and timber produced in this district and the company has indicated that it will undertake to see that the carload shipments will receive reasonable and adequate service in the future and passengers can secure their tickets on the train from the conductor without extra cost.

The nearest agencies to Alton are Fortuna, to the south 15.4 miles, and Scotia, to the north 7.1 miles.

The company alleges in its application that the abandonment of said agency will not result in the abandonment of any facilities, that the station will be continued as a non-agency station and that, in its opinion, the continued maintenance of said agency is not necessary for the business of the applicant or

for the public. The company has indicated that if the application is granted it plans to take care of less-than-carload shipments by storing them in the warehouse under lock and that the company's telephone located outside the station is to be made available to its patrons to communicate with the agents located at adjacent stations for the purpose of ordering cars and transacting other railroad business.

The California Farm Bureau Federation has signified, in writing, that it does not object to the abandonment of said agency.

It appears that a public hearing is not necessary herein and that the application should be granted, therefore

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Southern Pacific Company is hereby authorized to abandon its agency at the station of Alton, located on its main line in Humboldt County, and to change its station records and tariffs accordingly, subject to the following conditions:

- (1) Said agency shall be continued as a non-agency station.
- (2) The abandonment of said agency shall not result in an increase in fares to Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company passengers boarding trains at this point.
- (3) Applicant shall notify the public of the abandonment of said agency by posting notices at least ten (10) days prior to the abandonment in a conspicuous place at said station.
- (4) Less-than-carload shipments shall be stored under lock in the company's warehouse and the company's telephone, located at the station, shall be made available to its patrons. The key to both the warehouse and telephone shall be obtainable from a custodian located at or near said station and notice advising shippers where key may be secured shall be maintained at both warehouse and telephone.
- (5) Applicant shall, within thirty (30) days thereafter, notify this Commission, in writing, of the abandonment herein authorized and of its compliance with the conditions hereof.
- (6) The authorization herein granted shall lapse and become void if not exercised within one (1) year from the date hereof, unless further time is granted by subsequent order.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 31st day
of October, 1932.

C. J. Seavey
Leon Whitney
M. J. C.
M. B. Harris
Fred G. Stewart
Commissioners.