

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

In the matter of the Application)
of OCEAN SHORE RAILROAD COMPANY to)
discontinue the maintenance of an) APPLICATION NO. 1641.
agent at its station of SOUTH GRANADA)

I. W. Randall, for applicant.
Chas. W. Fay, for protestants.

GORDON, Commissioner.

O P I N I O N.

This is an application of the Ocean Shore Railroad Company for permission to discontinue the maintenance of an agent at its station of South Granada, it being alleged that the revenue derived from such station does not justify the continuance of an agent at this point, and that the present financial condition of the applicant is such that the most rigid economy is necessary in the operation of its railroad. A public hearing was held on August 3, 1915, and the matter is now ready for decision.

The station of South Granada is located 27.6 miles from San Francisco and the nearest agency station is Half Moon, which is 2.6 miles south of the station of South Granada. The adjacent country tributary to this station is an agricultural section devoted to the raising of vegetables and garden truck, although some hay and grain is produced. The vegetables are shipped principally in less than carload quantities and constitute the major portion of the freight shipments originating at this point. Many of the shippers are farmers who rent their lands from owners of large holdings, and, as many of the farmers are not familiar with the routine of shipping, an agent at this point has been of material assistance in the handling of their outgoing business. The carload business is of slight volume, no carload shipments having

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been forwarded during the six months ending June 30, 1915, and but thirteen cars having been received during the same period; one of lumber, ten of manure and two of rock for highway improvement.

The general financial condition of the Ocean Shore Railroad as reflected by a statement filed as an exhibit in this application indicates that a heavy loss has resulted from the operation of the railroad for the six months period ending June 30, 1915, and the anxiety of the officials to conserve all the revenue possible is therefore apparent.

The business transacted at South Granada Station during the six months period ending June 30, 1915, shows the following result:

<u>Freight Received</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>	<u>Revenue</u>
Less than carload	- 496,120	\$639.83
Carload - 13 cars	- 920,540	247.35
<u>Freight Forwarded</u>		
Less than carload	- 793,820	1,200.45
Carload - none	- -	-
Total	2,210,480	\$2,087.63

There are no tickets sold at the station of South Granada and the passenger revenue received at this station is handled by commutation books purchased in San Francisco or from other agencies, and by passenger train conductors in their train collections.

The agent serving South Granada Station has divided his time between that station and the station of Moss Beach and receives a salary of \$85.00 per month, \$50.00 applicable against Moss Beach and \$35.00 against South Granada.

The cost of maintaining the agency at South Granada is therefore approximately ten per cent of the revenue derived from the freight business originating at and destined to this station.

The Ocean Shore Railroad Company proposes to effect a saving in agency expense by combining the agency work at Moss Beach Station with that of Farralone Station, thereby reducing expenses by about \$75.00 per month. As no passenger business is handled through the agency at South Granada, there being no tickets sold at this point, the services of an agent are only necessary as regards freight shipments, and as but one regular freight train in each direction is being operated at the present time, scheduled to pass South Granada southbound at 8.50 A.M. and northbound at 11.06 A.M., the presence of an agent or representative of the applicant is only necessary for a limited portion of each day.

While the financial condition of the applicant is such that every effort possible should be made toward the saving of unnecessary expense in the operation of its railroad, some consideration is due the shippers and receivers of freight at South Granada Station, and it was suggested at the hearing of this application that arrangements be made by the applicant to secure the services of some representative who would be present at the station during such hours as were necessary to serve the regular freight trains and who would assist shippers in the preparation of their shipping documents, and also handle incoming and outgoing freight. It was agreed by applicant's representative at the hearing that a trial of such suggested method would be satisfactory to the Company and that also the interests of the shippers and receivers of freight would be protected by the suggested arrangement.

I, therefore, recommend the following form of order:

O R D E R.

The Ocean Shore Railroad Company having made application to this Commission for permission to discontinue the maintenance of an agent at its station of South Granada for the reason that the present financial condition of the applicant is such that extreme economy is necessary, a public hearing having been held

and the Commission being fully advised in the premises.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that the applicant, Ocean Shore Railroad Company, be permitted to discontinue the maintenance of an agent at its station of South Granada upon the following conditions, and not otherwise:

1. The applicant, Ocean Shore Railroad Company, shall upon the discontinuance of an agent at its station of South Granada, employ a competent representative for a period of ninety days, and thereafter until the further order of this Commission, whose duties shall include the rendering of assistance to the freight shippers at the station of South Granada in the preparation of shipping documents; the care of incoming and outgoing freight shipments and the keeping open of the freight station for the receiving and delivery of shipments between the hours of 8.45 A.M. and 11.15 A.M., or immediately prior to and after the arrival and departure of the regularly scheduled freight trains serving this station.

2. The applicant, Ocean Shore Railroad Company, will keep a true and accurate record of the business transacted at its station of South Granada for a period of ninety days after the installation of the representative, as above provided, and will submit such record to this Commission.

The foregoing opinion and order are hereby approved and ordered filed as the opinion and order of the Railroad Commission of the State of California.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 9th day of August, 1915.

Wm. J. Shelton
W. J. Zeland
W. J. Zeland

Frank D. Dyer
Commissioners.