

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

In the matter of the application of)
W. E. Moffett and Son of Lemon Cove,)
California, for permission to in-) Application No. 71
crease the monthly rate on Lines 6 and)
7 in Lemon Cove, California.)

W. E. Moffett,
for W. E. Moffett and Son.
J. A. Moffett,

OPINION.

Gordon, Commissioner.

This is an application by W. E. Moffett and Son, for an order of this Commission authorizing an increase in the rates charged by applicant for telephone service rendered upon two of applicant's lines, namely, No. 6 and No. 7.

The present rate on these lines is 30 cents per month, and applicant desires to be permitted to charge 50 cents per month. The service upon which the increase is desired is, in all respects, similar to what is commonly defined Farmer Line Service. The duties and responsibilities of building and maintaining lines are divided between the telephone company and the subscribers. This is a class of service which is frequently more or less unsatisfactory because of this divided responsibility, but, on the other hand, it is a class of service frequently available in rural communities which cannot develop a different class of service. A rate of 50 cents per month is not an unreasonable charge under the circumstances existing at Lemon Cove, as the duties involved in this particular service are essentially those of central office switching combined with the partial responsibility for line maintenance. Evidence was produced at the hearing which showed that the existing charge of 30 cents for this service is not compensatory under the conditions existing at Lemon Cove, and while the increase requested is small, it will be a material and actual fac-

tor in maintaining this telephone system on a compensatory basis. It was neither alleged nor indicated by the evidence introduced, that the charge of 50 cents elsewhere obtaining upon this system for similar service was not fair and equitable in view of the duties and responsibilities involved. Under those circumstances, I recommend that applicant be allowed to put the increased rate into effect.

I submit herewith the following form of order:

O R D E R

W. E. Moffett and Son having applied to this Commission for an order permitting applicant to put into effect a rate of 50 cents per month, payable in advance, for the service rendered on Farmer Lines No. 6 and No. 7, in order that the rate charged by applicant for this class of service may be uniform and compensatory, and a public hearing having been duly held upon this application,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that W. E. Moffett and Son be, and it hereby is authorized to put into effect on and after January 1, 1913, a rate of 50 cents per month, payable in advance, for service rendered on Farmer Lines No. 6 and No. 7.

The authority herein granted must not be taken as a final approval of the rates authorized, inasmuch as the same may at any time be affected by further orders of this Commission having to do with the class of service involved.

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 30th day of December, 1912.

John W. Williamson
H. H. Highland
Edwin C. Algerton
Commissioners