

ORIGINAL

In the Matter of the Application of
 THE A. E. JONES WAREHOUSE
 DAVIS & FREY
 STOREY WAREHOUSE COMPANY
 SAUNDERS BROTHERS
 TRIGO GRAIN COMPANY
 CALIFA WAREHOUSE COMPANY
 GREENLEAF WAREHOUSE
 RATTLESNAKE WAREHOUSE COMPANY
 SHARON WAREHOUSE COMPANY,
 To Increase Warehouse Rates for the
 Storage and Handling of Grain in their
 Respective Warehouses at Various Points
 in Madera County.

APPLICATION NO. 3710.

Appearances:

- E.M.Davis, for Davis & Frey,
- M.C.Phillips, for Storey Warehouse Co.
- E.M.Saunders, for Saunders Brothers.
- E.P.Brown, for Trigo Grain Company.
- W.H.Gibbs, for Califa Warehouse.
- W.D.Cobb, for Greenleaf Warehouse.
- J.C.Straube, for Rattlesnake Warehouse Co.
- Claude Hining, for Sharon Warehouse Co.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

This proceeding involves the applications of nine warehousing firms, as enumerated above, who seek authority to increase rates for the storage of grain and for shipping grain through warehouses located in Madera County. A public hearing was held before Examiner Westover at Madera May 10, 1918.

The A. E. Jones Warehouse, located at Trigo, failed to have a representative at the hearing and as no evidence was presented in its behalf, the application will be dismissed. The remaining

eight applicants appeared and presented testimony and the order entered herein will apply to them alone.

Davis & Frey operate five warehouses, one at Daulton, with a capacity of 1500 tons; two at Berenda, one having a capacity of 1500 tons and the other 1750 tons; one at Talbot and one at Borden, each having a capacity of 3500 tons.

The Storey Warehouse Company has two warehouses at Storey, with capacity of 3000 and 1000 tons respectively.

Saunders Brothers have two warehouses at Madera, with capacity of 1000 and 2000 tons, which they operate in connection with their barley rolling, feed mill and grain business.

The Trigo Grain Company operates a warehouse at Trigo, having a capacity of about 4500 tons.

W. H. Gibbs operates a warehouse at Califa, under the name of Califa Warehouse Company, which has a capacity of about 3750 tons.

W. D. Cobb has at Greenleaf what is known as the Greenleaf Warehouse, having a capacity of about 3700 tons.

The Rattlesnake Warehouse Company operates a warehouse on the Italian-Swiss spur near Madera, having a capacity of about 3000 tons.

Claude Hining operates a warehouse at Sharon, known as the Sharon Warehouse, with a capacity of about 4000 tons.

Ahl applicants now have in effect uniform rates, viz:

Grain on Storage to January 1, ---	\$.75	per ton
Grain on Storage to June 1, ---	1.00	" "
Shipping Grain through Warehouse--	.25	" "

These rates include the receiving, weighing and piling of grain and the loading on cars or wagons.

It is proposed to increase rates, as follows:

Grain on Storage to January 1, ---	\$1.00	per ton
Grain on Storage to June 1, ---	1.25	" "
Shipping Grain through warehouse--	.35	" "

The new rates to include the same service in and out of the warehouses as that rendered under the rates now in effect.

The reasons assigned by applicants in justification of the increases are, the abnormal advance in the cost of labor and materials as compared with the cost at the time the rates now in effect were first established, several years ago. Testimony shows that since 1916 wages have increased from 30 to 50% and that from present indications applicants will be obliged to pay still higher wages during the coming season. It is in evidence that under Federal regulation it is incumbent upon warehousemen to load cars to their full carrying capacity, which entails much additional time and labor. Under the old custom cars/^{were} usually loaded six sacks high, which method permitted straight trucking and dumping; whereas by reason of the new regulations cars must be loaded more than six sacks high, necessitating lifting the additional sacks by hand and placing them in position.

Under the present economic conditions it is practically impossible to estimate the amount of revenue these applicants will

receive for the storage of grain during the year 1918, for much of it may move direct from the harvest field through the warehouses into the cars for immediate transportation to our allies, in which case the principal charges collected will be based on the proposed rate of 35 cents per ton for grain passing through the warehouses.

Although notice of this proceeding and the date of hearing was sent to each of applicants' patrons as required by this Commission's rules, no one appeared at the hearing in opposition. In their testimony, a number of the warehousemen stated that storers had been interviewed and notified of the proposed increases, but no objections were offered; on the contrary, several storers of grain expressed approval of the proposed rates.

The testimony clearly indicates that under the high and uncertain cost of labor and materials these warehouses cannot continue to operate successfully at the present rates during the period of war and upon the record the applications should be granted.

O R D E R

The applicants hereinabove named having applied for authority to increase warehouse rates as hereinafter authorized, and a public hearing having been held thereon, testimony having been taken, the matter having been submitted and being now ready for decision,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

No appearance having been made on behalf of A. E. Jones Warehouse or A. E. Jones, and no testimony having been submitted showing any justification for increased rates

at said warehouse, the application as to said A. E. Jones Warehouse is hereby dismissed.

The Commission finding that the rates now in effect by the warehousemen hereinafter named at their respective warehouses are unreasonable and unjust and that the rates hereinafter named are just and reasonable rates, and basing its order upon the above finding of fact and upon the further finding of facts set forth in the opinion preceding this order,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED by the Railroad Commission that H. M. Davis and W. F. Frey, partners, as Davis & Frey, operating warehouses at Daulton, Berenda, Talbot and Borden; Storey Warehouse Company, operating two warehouses at Storey; Saunders Brothers, operating two warehouses at Madera; E.P. Brown operating warehouse at Trigo, under the name of Trigo Grain Company; W. H. Gibbs, operating warehouse at Califa, under the name of Califa Warehouse; Rattlesnake Warehouse Company; W. D. Cobb, operating warehouse at Greenleaf under the name of Greenleaf Warehouse; and Claude Hining, operating warehouse at Sharon under the name of Sharon Warehouse Company, all of said warehouses being located in Madera County, California, be and they are hereby authorized to charge and collect, upon filing tariffs with the Commission, the following rates at said warehouses:

Grain on storage to January 1....	\$1.00	per ton
Grain on storage to June 1.....	1.25	" "
Shipping grain through warehouse..	.35	" "

The collection of above rates shall be conducted upon the rendering of first-class service and receiving, weighing, piling, carrying in storage,

resacking, loading into cars and such other service as
is customary.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 24th
day of May, 1918.

Manuel
H. L. Howard
Arthur
Commissioners.