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# ORIGINAL

Decision No. 5698

Decision No. \_\_\_\_\_

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of  
WESTERN AUTO STAGE COMPANY, INC., to  
increase fares for the transportation  
of passengers between Bakersfield  
and Taft and intermediate points. )

Application No. 3918

In the Matter of the Application of  
WOOD, BOYD and INGALLS to increase fares )  
for the transportation of passengers )  
between Bakersfield and Taft and in- )  
termediate points. )

Application No. 3919

F. L. Smith, for Western Auto Stage Co., Inc.  
Carl Ingalls for Wood, Boyd and Ingalls.

BY THE COMMISSION.

## O P I N I O N

These are applications of the Western Auto Stage Company, Inc. and Wood, Boyd and Ingalls, engaged in the transportation of passengers by auto stages between Bakersfield and Taft and intermediate points, for authority to increase fares between certain points served by them.

Present fares and fares desired by both applicants are as follows:-

<u>Miles</u>	<u>Between</u>	<u>BAKERSFIELD</u>		<u>PANAMA</u>		<u>OLD RIVER</u>		<u>WESTERN Water Wks.</u>	
		<u>Pre-sent</u>	<u>Pro-posed</u>	<u>Pre-sent</u>	<u>Pro-posed</u>	<u>Pre-sent</u>	<u>Pro-posed</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Pro-posed</u>
0	Bakersfield	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	Panama	50	50	-	-	-	-	-	-
13	Old River	50	50	25	25	-	-	-	-
24	Western Water Wks.	75	1.00	75	75	.50	.50	-	-
38	Taft	1.00	1.50	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	50	75

A public hearing was held before Examiner Westover at Bakersfield on August 2, 1918, and since the issues in both these applications are identical the proceedings were consolidated and will be covered by one decision and order.

No one appeared in opposition to the proposed increases although notices of hearing were given wide publicity in the communities interested.

Western Auto Stage Company, Inc. operates auto stage lines between Bakersfield and San Francisco through Fresno and between Bakersfield and San Luis Obispo, a distance of 138 miles over the mountains. The only rate increases now sought are on that part of its system lying between Bakersfield and Taft.

The firm of Wood, Boyd and Ingalls operates auto stage line between Bakersfield and Taft only.

The testimony showed increases in the cost of tires about 50%, gasoline, oil and equipment 25% to 30%, car bodies about 20%, salaries and wages as much as 40% to 50%. These increases in cost of operation result in an increase in the cost per mile of capacity load between Bakersfield and Taft from 12.1 to 21.4 as shown by statement of Western Auto Stage

Company, and an increase from 13¢ to 19.5 as shown by statement of Wood, Boyd and Ingalls.

The fare proposed by applicants between Bakersfield and Taft is approximately 20% lower than the fare of \$1.90 via Sunset Railway Company between same points, a distance of 46 miles. The increases sought appear to be justified.

O R D E R

WESTERN AUTO STAGE COMPANY, INC. and WOOD, BOYD AND INGALLS having applied to the Railroad Commission for an order authorizing the publication of the following one way fares:

<u>BETWEEN</u>	<u>BAKERSFIELD</u>	<u>PANAMA</u>	<u>OLD RIVER</u>	<u>WESTERN WATER WORKS</u>
Bakersfield	--	-	-	--
Panama	.50	-	-	--
Old River	.50	.25	-	--
Western Water Works	1.00	.75	.50	--
Taft	1.50	1.00	1.00	.75

and a public hearing having been held and the Commission being fully apprised in the premises, finds as a fact, that the fares hereinabove set forth are just and reasonable, and that the rates heretofore in effect, in so far as they differ from them are unjust and unreasonable.

Basing its order upon the foregoing finding, and the findings contained in the opinion preceding this order,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Western Auto Stage Company, Inc. and Wood, Boyd and Ingalls, be and they are hereby authorized to publish and file with this Commission

tariffs showing the fares set forth above, said fares to be effective five (5) days after filing of tariff with this Commission, and the posting of same at stations affected.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1918.

Edwin O. Egan

H. D. Seward

Alex. Gordon

Frank R. Hill  
Commissioners