

Decision No. 6791.

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

-000-

In the Matter of the Application)
of the MERCHANT'S TRANSPORTATION)
COMPANY for increase of certain) Application No. 5046
rates.)
)

BY THE COMMISSION.

O R D E R

Applicant is engaged in the transportation of freight, largely food products, between points located in the so-called Delta District of the San Joaquin-Sacramento Rivers and marketing terminals including Sacramento, Stockton, and San Francisco. The present service was initiated in July 1919, at which time applicant filed schedules of rates based as nearly as could be estimated upon operating costs then existing, since which time slight increases have been made in the rates for the transportation of potatoes and onions. Upon actual tests applicant has now ascertained that the rates shown in its schedules originally filed, in a way experimental and tentative, are not sufficient to guarantee the proper maintenance of its service and meet the operating costs which have materially increased.

1.

Subsequent to August 1st, this applicant and others engaged in transportating freight by boat along the River and Delta regions, materially increased wages of their employees. The companies which have made no readjustment of wages have either discontinued service entirely or are operating with a limited number of boats. As a result, quantities of perishable tonnage of the kind ordinarily carried by applicant, have accumulated and there is now a great necessity for its movement into market before the rainy season commences.

At the present time, transportation facilities are scarce in the district served by applicant, only a part of the normal accommodations being now available. Applicant claims that its facilities cannot reasonably be continued in the transportation of said food stuffs and other commodities at the rates now carried in its schedules. Shippers are entirely willing to pay, and are now paying, for similar transportation, rates equally as high as those proposed by applicant, which proposed rates appear, under conditions existing, to be just and reasonable.

This application covers an emergency matter which cannot await the time necessary for a public hearing, and the rates appearing to be reasonable, the application should be granted.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Merchants Transportation Company, be and the same hereby is authorized to publish and file within twenty days new tariffs, in accordance with the proposed rates set forth in detail in the application.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 24th day of October, 1919.

Edwin O. Egan
Frank R. Poling
H. B. ...
... ..
Commissioners.