

Decision No. 6795

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

In the Matter of the Application)
of the Pacific Steamship Company,)
a corporation, for an order auth-)
orizing increase in loading charges)
at San Francisco, California.)

APPLICATION NO. 4988.

McCutchen, Willard, Mannon & Greene, by Farnum Griffiths,
for Applicant.
John S. Willis, for the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce.

LOVELAND, COMMISSIONER:

O P I N I O N

This is an application by the Pacific Steamship Company under Section 63 of the Public Utilities Act for authority to increase the charges assessed for loading freight into cars at San Francisco. The present rates are published in Terminal Tariff P.S.S.Co. No. 17-B, C.R.C.No. 22, effective February 15, 1919.

Without setting forth all of the specific charges, it will suffice to state that the application contemplates increasing the rates from 35 cents to 60 cents per ton on beans, canned goods, flour, potatoes, onions and similar commodities; from 30 to 40 cents per ton on fertilizer and wheat; from 80 cents to \$1.00 per hour per man for loading bulky articles, such as structural iron, machinery and household goods; from 80 cents to \$1.00 per 1000 feet for lumber, and from 50 to 75 cents per ton for loading freight not otherwise specified.

It was stipulated at the hearing October 9th that the testimony introduced in Applications Nos. 4963, 4986 and 4987 would

apply to this application. The four applications were heard together, the three last mentioned dealing with the freight and passenger rates of the Pacific Steamship Company and the testimony presented in connection with all four proceedings was, in the main, directed to the point that the rapid increase in all operating expenses, particularly the cost of labor, had been so great in the past two years as to bring about actual losses in the operation of applicant's Coastwise steamers. The financial results are dealt with in the opinions and orders covering the other three cases; it will, therefore, not be necessary to repeat the details here.

Prior to December 24, 1918, the loading charge on such commodities as beans, canned goods, flour, potatoes and onions was 25 cents per ton of 2000 pounds. Effective December 24, 1918, this rate was increased to 35 cents per ton, the increase authorized being based upon applicant's showing that the pay of its stevedores had been advanced from 65 cents to 80 cents per hour, with overtime at the rate of \$1.20 per hour. Effective August 1, 1919, the stevedores pay was increased from 80 cents to \$1.00 per hour, with overtime pay at the rate of \$1.50 per hour.

The advancing of stevedores wages made necessary a corresponding increase in the pay of other employees, such as superintendents and clerks, and applicant alleges and shows by exhibits and the testimony of witnesses that the service performed in handling freight over the San Francisco wharves is done at a loss. The proposed rates are lower than are being assessed by the stevedoring firms at San Francisco not under the jurisdiction of this Commission and the rates of federal controlled railroads

performing similar services at San Pedro and Wilmington are higher for some commodities than the rates proposed in this application for San Francisco. At San Pedro and Wilmington the rate for fertilizer and wheat is 55½ cents per ton as against the proposed rate of 40 cents at San Francisco; lumber is \$1.20 per 1000 feet as against the proposed rate of \$1.00.

The general public and interested shippers were notified of the proceeding, but there was no opposition. The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce entered an appearance and at the conclusion of the hearing its representative stated that upon the showing made it could offer no objection to the increases requested.

I am of the opinion and find that in view of the unusually high operating costs now obtaining the rates at present in effect are unremunerative, that the rates proposed are reasonable, and that the application should be granted.

I submit the following form of order:

ORDER

Public hearing having been held in the above entitled proceeding, testimony having been presented, the case having been submitted for decision and the Railroad Commission having reached the conclusion that the rates now being charged are unjust and unreasonable,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Pacific Steamship Company

be authorized to establish within twenty (20) days from the date of this order the following rates, which are found to be just and reasonable:

LOADING CHARGES AT SAN FRANCISCO

The following charges will be assessed at San Francisco, Cal., for loading freight into cars.

(See Notes #1 and #2.)

Beans and Peas	:	Ore in sacks)	
Box Shook	:	Paper)	
Canned Goods	:	Potatoes and Onions))	
Feed	:	Shakes)	\$.60 per 2000 lbs.
Flour	:	Shingles)	
Grain, not otherwise specified:	:	Staves and Headings))	
Malt	:	Tallow)	
Meal, oil cake and bean	:	Tin Plate)	
Fertilizer, in packages	-	-	-	\$.40 per 2000 lbs.
Wheat, in sacks	-	-	-	.40 " " "
Empty Barrels and Drums	-	-	-	.05 each
Car Wheels	-	-	-	.40 per 2000 lbs.
Iron and Steel Articles, viz.:		Bar, Rod, Plate,)	\$1.00 per man per hour for each man employed.
		Structural and Pipe))	
Machinery	-	-	-	
Household Goods	-	-	-	
Marble Slabs	-	-	-	
Lumber	-	-	-	\$1.00 per 1000 ft. Board Measure.
All other freight	-	-	-	\$.75 per 2000 lbs.

NOTE #1- Actual cost will be charge for all dunnage or bracing used in loading cars, also for paper used when it is necessary to line cars. \$1.00 per man per hour employed will also be charged for the time consumed in placing dunnage, bracing and lining.

NOTE #2- Freight in gondola cars or bulk cargo will be handled only by special contract, and when so handled the charge for loading to or unloading from cars will be actual cost plus 15%.

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 27th day of October 1919.

Edwin C. Edgerton
H. D. Loveland
Frank Devlin
H. B. ...
Irving Martin
Commissioners.