

Applicants propose to charge rates in accordance with a schedule marked exhibit "A" and filed with the application in this proceeding and to operate on a schedule of one round trip daily serving as intermediates the communities at San Lucas, San Ardo, Bradley, and San Miguel ; using as equipment one Pierce-Arrow automobile, seven passenger capacity, and one Cadillac automobile, twelve passenger capacity,

Applicants, rely as justification for the granting of the desired certificate, upon the alleged fact that the present service rendered by railroad and stages between the points proposed to be served is inadequate.

Testimony was offered by one of the applicants as to his opinion of the necessity for the establishment of the proposed service and a witness for applicant, who had formerly operated a stage line between King City and Paso Robles, testified as to the volume of traffic existing at the time his operation was effected. It appeared, however, that this applicant discontinued service something over a year ago and without first obtaining the permission of the Railroad Commission, for such discontinuance. This witness was of the opinion that the railroad service was inadequate and unsatisfactory for the public by reason of trains not being scheduled at hours most convenient to the public.

The granting of this application is protested by the United States Railroad Administration on behalf of its lessor, the Southern Pacific Railroad, and by the Pickwick Stages, Northern Division.

The Southern Pacific Railroad protests the granting of this application on the basis that the service rendered is adequate and at reasonable rates. It is alleged that no com-

plaint has been received as to inadequacy of service or any unreasonableness of rates.

Pickwick Stages, Northern Division, protests this application on the basis that a service is being rendered by such protestant over the route herein sought and that three round trips daily are offered for the accommodation of the public and it is the intention to shortly place an additional schedule making four round trips daily. Pickwick Stages, Northern Division, claim to have first operated on a schedule of one round trip daily serving the territory herein sought by applicant as intermediate in connection with the through route of protestant; that the business has now increased and that additional schedules have been operated to care for such increase in business until at the time of hearing three round trips daily were being offered. Witnesses, testifying in behalf of this protestant, stated that in their opinion additional stage service was not warranted nor justified over the route herein sought; that they had never been refused transportation and that the service, as rendered by the Pickwick Stages, Northern Division, was, in their opinion, adequate and satisfactory. This protestant claims to be in position to furnish such additional equipment or to increase the number of schedules operated if the demands of traffic justify.

After careful consideration of all the evidence in this proceeding, we are of the opinion that the needs of the traveling public for transportation between King City and Paso Robles and intermediate points are satisfactorily cared for by the rail line of the Southern Pacific Company and by the automobile stage line of the Pickwick Stages, Northern Division, and that the evidence in this proceeding does not justify the granting of the

desired certificate in that an affirmative showing of public convenience and necessity as regards the proposed route has not been made.

THE RAILROAD COMMISSION HEREBY DECLARES that public convenience and necessity do not require the operation by B. L. Knox and C. J. Knox, co-partners, doing business under the firm name and style of Knox Brothers, as a common carrier of passengers and merchandise between King City and Paso Robles and,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that this application be and the same hereby is denied.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 4th day of March, 1920.

Edwin O. Edgerton
H. D. Loveland
Frank R. White
Dwight Martin

Commissioners.