

Decision No. 7579.

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

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In the Matter of the Application of
HOLTEN INTER-URBAN RAILWAY COMPANY,
a railway corporation operating a
short inter-urban line in the County
of Imperial, State of California, for
an order authorizing the applicant
company to discontinue that portion
of its freight hauling and delivery
business which has heretofore been
carried on by means of a specially
constructed truck operating both upon
the railway and public highway.

ORIGINAL

Application No. 5435.

I. B. Potter for Applicant.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

Holten Inter-Urban Railway Company, a corporation, has petitioned the Railroad Commission for an order authorizing the discontinuance of a pick up and delivery freight service heretofore operated by said applicant in the communities of El Centro and Holtville in Imperial County.

A public hearing on this application was conducted by Examiner Handford at El Centro on May 11, 1920, at which time the matter was duly submitted for decision.

Applicant herein is operating an inter-urban railway between the city of El Centro and the city of Holtville in Imperial County, such operation being conducted for the handling of freight only, passenger business having been discontinued for some months under the authority of the Railroad Commission as contained in Decision No. 6732, Application No. 4827, decided October 2, 1919.

In connection with the less than carload shipments of freight originating at and destined to points on the line of applicant, a pick up and delivery service has been performed in the cities of Holtville and El Centro by means of a freight truck operating over the public highways. This automobile truck pick up and delivery service was originally established by the applicant during the month of July, 1917, by use of a truck equipped with combination wheels permitting operation over both the railway line of the applicant and the public highways in the cities of El Centro and Holtville. The pick up and delivery service was performed at the same rate that had heretofore existed when the freight operation of the applicant herein was confined to a station to station delivery. The original installation of this pick up and delivery service was made after informal conference with the service department of the Railroad Commission, it being understood that the matter was an experiment and that the applicant company desired to make such experiment with a view to increasing, if possible, the less than carload freight business between the cities of El Centro and Holtville.

Exhibits filed by applicant with the application in this proceeding and at the hearing thereon and covering the period July, 1917 to March, 1920, both months inclusive, show the following results:

RECEIPTS

<u>Year</u>	<u>Lbs. Freight</u>	<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Total</u>
1917	917,475	1093.96	
1918	2,590,521	4043.02	
1919	2,985,966	5130.83	
1920	<u>652,763</u>	<u>1208.27</u>	
	7,146,725		\$ 11,476.08

<u>Year</u>	<u>Gasoline and Distillate</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>			<u>Depreciation</u>	<u>Total</u>
		<u>Labor</u>	<u>Other Expenses</u>	<u>Repair</u>		
1917	107.20	500.58	31.40	17.19	150.00	806.37
1918	320.84	1,663.99	210.93	1148.91	600.00	3679.61
1919	480.57	1,868.73	135.36	2182.09	833.50	5500.25
1920	<u>211.27</u>	<u>511.25</u>	<u>68.51</u>	<u>1034.05</u>	<u>171.60</u>	<u>1996.68</u>
	1,119.88	4,544.55	446.20	4382.24	1755.10	11,982.91
				Deficit	\$	506.83

It is apparent that since 1918 the revenue derived from the operation of this freight truck has been conducted at a considerable loss and the volume of patronage now accorded this method of transportation does not appear to warrant the continuance of same as the public will not be deprived of freight service between Holtville and El Centro as such service will continue to be rendered as a "station to station", service being handled on the steam trains of applicant company together with carload business for which steam trains are now operating. Applicant was required to make publication of the notice of hearing on this application in a newspaper of general circulation at El Centro and also was required to post notices at each station and affidavits of such publication and posting were filed at the hearing on this proceeding. Notwithstanding that public notices had been given, as above, there was no appearance or evidence protesting the granting of this application.

After careful consideration of the evidence in this

proceeding and the exhibits filed with the application and presented at the hearing thereon, we are of the opinion and find as a fact that the revenue derived from the operation of the applicant's motor truck transportation between El Centro and Holtville, including pick up and delivery service in the cities of El Centro and Holtville, does not justify the cost of operation and that the public necessity does not require a continuance of such operation in that less than carload freight will hereafter be transported between such stations on the regular steam trains operated by applicant in connection with the conduct of its business.

O R D E R

Holton Inter-Urban Railway Company, a corporation, having petitioned the Railroad Commission for an order authorizing the discontinuance of a motor truck transportation service between Holtville and El Centro in Imperial County, such service being conducted over the public highways in the cities of El Centro and Holtville and over the line of applicant's railway connecting such communities; a public hearing having been held; the matter having been duly submitted and the Commission being fully advised and basing its order on the finding of fact as set forth in the foregoing opinion,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that this application be and the same hereby is granted. The effective date of this order to be June 1, 1920. Applicant herein will be required to post notices at its freight stations at Holtville and El Centro and to advertise in a newspaper of general circulation in the communities of Holtville and El Centro at least three times and at least five days prior to the effective date of this order,

notifying the public of the discontinuance of service hereby authorized.

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 17th day of May, 1920.

Elmer O. Egan
H. D. Howard
Frank R. Dyer
H. K. Brundage
Irving Martin
Commissioners.