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Decision No. 7648

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

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In the Matter of the application of)
 C. M. BLABON and J. R. CLEVELAND)
 for a certificate of public con-)
 venience and necessity to operate)
 passenger service as a transporta-) Application No. 5192
 tion company between Fresno and)
 Santa Cruz.)
)
)

H. A. Encell for Applicant
 W. E. Simpson of Fresno for
 Protestant Allen & Moyer
 David C. Clark for Protest-
 ant N & J Stage Lines.

BY THE COMMISSION.

ORDER

C. M. Blabon and J. R. Cleaveland, partners in business, have petitioned the Railroad Commission for an order declaring that public convenience and necessity require the operation by them of an automobile stage line as a common carrier of passengers between Fresno and Santa Cruz by way of Los Banos, Hollister, San Juan and Watsonville.

A public hearing on this application was conducted before Examiner Satterwhite at Santa Cruz on May 7th, 1920, the matter was duly submitted and is now ready for decision.

Applicant proposes to charge rates in accordance with the schedule marked Exhibit "A" filed with said application and to

operate on a time schedule of two round trips daily between Fresno and Santa Cruz, using as equipment three Packard Twin-Six automobiles in accordance with Exhibit "C" as amended at the hearing.

Allen and Moyer, operating a stage line between Fresno and Los Banos and the N & J Stage Line operating between Santa Cruz and Salinas, appeared in opposition to the application, but the N & J Stage Line was eliminated by the stipulation of applicants that no local passengers would be carried between Santa Cruz and Watsonville.

C. N. Blabon testified in support of the application and several other witnesses testified to the public necessity for this proposed service. The testimony shows that eleven and twelve hours are now consumed in traveling between Fresno and Santa Cruz over the present railroad and auto stage facilities and that many transfers or changes have to be made from one stage line to another in making the trip. If one travels now by way of the proposed through service, transfers from one stage line to another have to be made at Watsonville, San Juan, Hollister and Los Banos; and if one travels by railroad the trip has to be made by way of Tracy, Niles, San Jose and Watsonville Junction, which is a very round-about and inconvenient route.

Santa Cruz is a well known summer resort as well as a thriving business community. It was shown that a canvass was made of commercial travelers who visit Santa Cruz from Fresno and adjacent territory and they strongly favor this proposed service. Business men and residents along the line also desire the operation of this service. During the entire summer season, a very large number of residents of the San Joaquin Valley and other points spend their summer vacation at Santa Cruz.

Mr. Bob Jones, a director of the Chamber of Commerce of Santa Cruz, appeared at the hearing specially authorized to present a resolution of that Chamber of Commerce requesting the establishment of this proposed service. It was shown by Mr. Jones that this Chamber of Commerce had carefully canvassed the need of this service and had unanimously decided that there was a real public necessity for it.

As soon as the State Highway through Pacheco Pass is completed, it was shown that the schedule time consumed over this proposed line would be six hours.

After careful consideration of the evidence, we are of the opinion that the application should be granted.

THE RAILROAD COMMISSION HEREBY DECLARES that public convenience and necessity require the operation by C. M. Blabon and J. R. Cleaveland, partners in business, of an automobile stage line as a common carrier of passengers between Fresno and Santa Cruz by way of Los Banos, Hollister, San Juan and Watsonville.

Provided, however, that no local passengers will be carried in connection with this permit between Fresno and Los Banos and between Watsonville and Santa Cruz, and

Provided further, that the rights and privileges herein authorized may not be transferred nor assigned unless the written consent of the Railroad Commission to such transfer or assignment has first been procured.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that applicant file with the Railroad Commission within ten days from the date of service of this order a written acceptance of the certificate herein granted, such acceptance to contain advise as to the date upon which ser-

vice will be commenced, which date shall not be more than 90 days from the date of service of this order.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that no vehicle may be operated under this certificate, unless such vehicle is owned by applicant herein, or is leased by said applicant under a contract or agreement on a basis satisfactory to the Railroad Commission.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 27th
day of May, 1920.

Edwin O. Edgerton
H. D. Loveland
W. C. P. Perkins
James M. Martin

Commissioners