

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 6286

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of the NILAND-BLYTHE TRANSFER COMPANY, a partnership, to operate and maintain an auto freight and transfer line between the city of Niland, in the County of Imperial, and the city of Blythe, in the County of Riverside, both in the State of California.

Application No. 6686.

E. W. Heald for Applicants.

C. E. Harrison for Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway Company.

A. E. Warmington for California Southern Railroad Company.

T. A. Woods for American Railway Express Company.

BY THE COMMISSION.

O P I N I O N

Edmund Welch and John Welch, co-partners under the name Niland-Blythe Transfer Company, a partnership, by their application above entitled apply for authority to operate an auto freight line between Niland, Imperial County, and Blythe, Riverside County.

A public hearing in the matter was held by Examiner Westover at Niland.

It appears from the testimony that the distance between Niland and Blythe is about 72 miles, connected by desert road in bad condition. The only present freight service is by rail via Colton, San Bernardino and Rice, by the rails of the Southern Pacific Company, Pacific Electric Railway Company, Atchison,

Topeka & Santa Fe Railway Company, and California Southern Railroad Company, - a circuitous route. By the direct wagon road, the distance is about 72 miles over dirt road of poor quality, involving probably high cost of operation because of road conditions and climate. The testimony indicates that there is probably very little traffic which would move direct, as the Imperial Valley and Palo Verde Valley (which are tributary to the respective terminals) would be unlikely to ship freight in quantities in either direction. The principal movement of freight from these valleys is toward Los Angeles, which is the principal supply and jobbing point for each of them. Applicants expressed doubt as to whether they could operate at any margin of profit, particularly in view of the Commission's recent action in reducing the rates of the California Southern Railroad Company.

The testimony presented fails to show public need for the service.

#### O R D E R

A public hearing upon the above entitled application having been held, the matter being submitted and now ready for decision,

THE RAILROAD COMMISSION HEREBY DECLARES that public convenience and necessity do not require the operation by Edmund Welch and John Welch of an auto freight truck line between Niland and Blythe or any intermediate points.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 21<sup>st</sup> day of May, 1921.

H. H. Bondick  
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Commissioners.