

Decision No. 9932

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of  
Butte Meadows Telephone and Telegraph  
Company for adjustment of rates.

Application No. 6992.

Bond and Deirup, by Harry Deirup for Applicant.

By the Commission:

O P I N I O N

ORIGINAL

J. W. Roper, applicant in this proceeding, owns and conducts a summer resort at Butte Meadows, Butte County, California, approximately thirty miles from the City of Chico. The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company, doing a general telephone and telegraph business throughout the Pacific Coast, owns and operates a telephone exchange in the City of Chico. For his convenience in the conduct of his resort, and for the convenience of the patrons of the resort and the general public, applicant a number of years ago constructed a telephone line between Butte Meadows and Chico, and has operated this line under the name of Butte Meadows Telephone Company. This name he now desires to change to Butte Meadows Telephone and Telegraph Company, which hereinafter will be referred to as the Company. The Company connects at Chico with the lines of The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company, and also has installed telephones and offers service to the public, at points between Butte Meadows and Chico;

to wit: at Denny Murphy's, designated as "Berdan", at Royal Drift Mining Co., designated as "Royal Drift", at J. H. Lucas's, designated as "Lomo", and at W. W. Waite's, designated as "West Branch". Near Butte Meadows the Company connects with a line owned by F. H. Mickey and E. B. Copeland, which line extends from Butte Meadows to Jonesville, a distance of six miles, more or less.

Prior to January 21, 1919, Company had in effect a rate of 25 cents for three minutes and 5 cents for each additional minute or fraction thereof for all messages passing over its line between Butte Meadows and Chico, and intermediate points. Since that date the rate charged between Butte Meadows and Chico has been 35 cents for three minutes plus 10 cents for each additional minute or fraction thereof. For all points between Chico and Butte Meadows a charge has been made of Three Dollars per month, which covered all charges for all messages from these points to Chico or to any other point on the line - messages from Chico to these points being charged for at the rate of twenty-five cents for three minutes and ten cents for each additional minute or fraction thereof.

By this method of operating, Company conducts its line as a subscriber's line at a regular monthly rental for all points between Butte Meadows and Chico as to all business terminating at Chico, while for business going in the opposite direction, that is, originating at Chico, the line is operated as a toll line. The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company collects the same charge for all calls originating at points on Pacific Company lines and destined to points on Company's line that it collects for calls originating at the same points and destined for subscribers on its local exchange at Chico, no charge of any nature being made for the use of the Company's line in such cases.

To remove these differences in rates and charges, Company desires to operate its line exclusively as a toll line and to

put into effect the following schedule of rates:

Schedule of Toll Rates between Points Listed Below

Station to Station Calls

		<u>Initial Rate</u>	<u>No. of Minutes</u>	<u>Additional Charge</u>
Butte Meadows	- Chico	.25	5	.05 - 1 min.
	Berdan	.15	5	.05 - 2 min.
	Royal Drift	.15	5	.05 - 2 min.
	Jonesville	.10	5	.05 - 3 min.
	Lomo	.10	5	.05 - 3 min.
	West Branch	.10	5	.05 - 3 min.
Berdan	- Chico	.15	5	.05 - 2 min.
	Butte Meadows	.15	5	.05 - 2 min.
	Jonesville	.15	5	.05 - 2 min.
	Lomo	.10	5	.05 - 3 min.
	West Branch	.10	5	.05 - 3 min.
	Royal Drift	.10	5	.05 - 3 min.
Royal Drift	- Chico	.15	5	.05 - 2 min.
	Butte Meadows	.15	5	.05 - 2 min.
	Jonesville	.15	5	.05 - 2 min.
	Lomo	.10	5	.05 - 3 min.
	West Branch	.10	5	.05 - 3 min.
	Berdan	.10	5	.05 - 3 min.
Jonesville	- Chico	.30	3	.10 - 1 min.
	Berdan	.15	5	.05 - 2 min.
	Royal Drift	.15	5	.05 - 2 min.
	Butte Meadows	.10	5	.05 - 3 min.
	Lomo	.10	5	.05 - 3 min.
	West Branch	.15	5	.05 - 2 min.
Lomo	- Chico	.25	5	.05 - 1 min.
	Berdan	.10	5	.05 - 3 min.
	Royal Drift	.10	5	.05 - 3 min.
	Butte Meadows	.10	5	.05 - 3 min.
	Jonesville	.10	5	.05 - 3 min.
	West Branch	.10	5	.05 - 3 min.
West Branch	- Chico	.20	5	.05 - 2 min.
	Berdan	.10	5	.05 - 3 min.
	Royal Drift	.10	5	.05 - 3 min.
	Butte Meadows	.10	5	.05 - 3 min.
	Jonesville	.15	5	.05 - 2 min.
	Lomo	.10	5	.05 - 3 min.
Chico	- Berdan	.15	5	.05 - 2 min.
	Royal Drift	.15	5	.05 - 2 min.
	Butte Meadows	.25	5	.05 - 1 min.
	Lomo	.25	5	.05 - 1 min.
	West Branch	.20	5	.05 - 2 min.
	Jonesville	.30	3	.10 - 1 min.

Person to Person, Appointment and Messenger Calls

<u>Initial Station to Station Rate</u>	<u>Corresponding Rate for</u>				
	<u>Person to Person Calls</u>		<u>Appointment and Messen- ger Calls.</u>		<u>Report Charge</u>
\$ .10	.15 (3)	.05	.20 (3)	.05	.05
\$ .15	.20 (3)	.05	.25 (3)	.05	.10
\$ .20	.25 (3)	.05	.30 (3)	.10	.10
\$ .25	.30 (3)	.10	.35 (3)	.10	.10
\$ .30	.40 (3)	.10	.45 (3)	.15	.10

Telegraph Service

Telegrams	.30 - 10 words;	.02½ each additional word.
Day Letters	.45 - 50 words or less;	.09 each additional 10 words or less.
Night Letters	.30 - 50 words or less;	.06 each additional 10 words or less.

For service to points on the lines of The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company through joint rates to be quoted.

Rental Guarantee

A guarantee of \$3.00 per month is proposed for the toll stations listed as Berdan, Royal Drift, Jonesville, Lomo, and West Branch.

A public hearing was held in Chico on October 5, 1921, before Examiner Satterwhite. There was no protest against the proposed rates.

It will be seen that the rates herein proposed include a complete schedule for the station at Jonesville. As the line between Butte Meadows and Jonesville does not belong to the Company, it is manifest that rates governing this line cannot be established

as part of the present proceeding, and also further, since the line to Jonesville appears to have been constructed since March 23, 1912, the owners must make formal application to the Commission for a certificate of public convenience and necessity authorizing the operation of this line as a public toll line before any charge whatsoever will be authorized.

The rates herein proposed are lower than the rates at present in effect for toll messages. It cannot be determined, however, to what extent the cost of service to those stations which are now paying a flat charge of \$3.00 per month will be affected.

The irregularities heretofore existing should of course be removed. The rates proposed by applicant will accomplish such removal, and they are uniform with rates at present in effect elsewhere for similar service. The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company has expressed its willingness to enter in a suitable agreement with the applicant for the interchange of service between its system and applicant's line.

Applicant proposes a charge of \$3.00 per month, to be known as "Rental Guarantee". This charge appears to be reasonable, but should be called "Toll Guarantee". It is further understood that under the application of this charge each station paying this guarantee shall be entitled to toll service over the line of the company each month to the extent of \$3.00 at the authorized toll rates, and that until any station shall have had a sufficient number of toll calls at the authorized rates to use up the amount of the monthly guarantee, no additional charge shall be made.

#### ORDER

J. W. Roper, owning and operating a telephone line between Butte Meadows and Chico, Butte County, under the name of Butte Meadows Telephone and Telegraph Company, having applied to the Railroad

Commission for authority to adjust rates, a public hearing having been held, the Commission being fully apprised and it appearing that the application should be granted,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that applicant is hereby authorized to publish, file with the Railroad Commission, and make effective on and after thirty days from the date of this order the schedule of rates set forth in the Opinion preceding this Order in so far as they relate to stations on applicant's own line.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 27<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1921.

H. B. ...  
A. D. ...  
...  
...  
...  
Commissioners.