Decision No. 32531 BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA In the Matter of the Application of the) SOUTHERN PACIFIC COMPANY for an order authorizing it to close itsaseasonal Application agency of Ravendale Station, County of No. 22777 Lassen, State of California, and to maintain the same as a non-agency. R. S. MYERS, for Applicant ARTHUR J. ANDERSON, District Attorney, for the County of Lassen.
N. D. PRITCHETT, for the Order of Railroad Telegraphers, also representing Mr. J. J. Deuel of the California Farm Bureau Federation. W. S. WATSON, for the Order of Railroad Telegraphers C. E. IARSON, for the Lassen County Farm Bureau BY THE COMMISSION: OPINION Southern Pacific Company herein requests authorization to close its seasonal agency of Ravendale Station in Lassen County and

to maintain same as a non-agency station.

A public hearing was held in this matter before Examiner Edwards at Susanville, California, on July 27, 1939. The matter was submitted on the filing of concurrent briefs.

A summary of the evidence introduced at the hearing follows herewith:

Applicant maintains a seasonal agency at Ravendale Station on its line of railroad between Wendel and Paola, on its Salt Lake Division in Lassen County, California, during the approximate period from May 16 to July 15, inclusive, of each year, pursuant to authority granted by this Commission in its Decision No. 26428, dated October 16, 1933.

Applicant contends that under present conditions the business handled at said Ravendale Station does not warrant the maintenance

of the agency for the period stated and hence asks for its discontinuance and maintenance as a non-agency station until sufficient traffic shall have been developed to justify again maintaining the agency.

The amount of traffic handled at the Ravendale Station during the approximate period of May 16 to July 15, inclusive, 1937 and 1938 is as follows:

I t e m	:	Two Months 1938	:	Average Per Month	:	-wo Months 1937	:	Average Per Month	- - -
FREIGHT RECEIVED AND FORWARDED: Carloads - Cars Carload Revenue - Local* Carload Revenue - Interline Less-than-carload - Tons Less-than-carload Revenue -Local* Less-than-carload Revenue - Interline	\$	144	\$	6 232 60 3 22	Ş	5.479 9.86	\$ \$\dagger\$	30 - 1-33 - 1-43	
PASSENCERS AND PEVENUE: Agency Reports - Passengers Agency reports - Revenue MISCELLANEOUS: Baggage handled - pieces	,			(enoN)	,		,		
Western Union Messages Milk and Cream - Cans Milk and Cream - Revenue				(None) (None) (None)			٠		

^{* =} For the item of local freight revenue, the amounts shown represent one-half of the actual revenue in order to allocate or credit to this station its proportion of the revenues derived therefrom.

At the present time there is no passenger service on the line operating through Ravendale, nor is there any Railway Express Agency business handled by Southern Pacific Company in and out of this point. The Railway Express Agency maintains its own independent agent in the local store with the line-haul being handled by truck.

The actual cost to applicant of maintaining the agency during the period May 16 to July 15, inclusive, 1937, amounted to \$379.

At the present time the key to the freight house is left in charge of a custodian at Ravendale who provides access for shippers

receiving or forwarding less-than-carload traffic. The company maintains a free telephone at Ravendale to communicate with the agency points on either side, Madeline, 21.0 miles east, and Wendel, 39.2 miles to the west.

Two witnesses introduced testimony in opposition to the granting of the application. The first mentioned certain dissatisfaction
expressed to him by livestock shippers, such as the inconvenience of
shipping through a non-agency point. The second witness testified
to the inconvenience of shipping from a non-agency point, but admitted
that he did not know the agency had been discontinued during ten
months of the year for some years. He stated, transcript pp. 35 and
36: ".....I have been through there and the cars was put in on the
switch, we leaded our cattle and jumped in our car and we were gone..."

On consideration of all the facts of record in this case, particularly the volume of traffic handled, the arrangements made to handle less-carload traffic, and the lack of any passenger traffic to be accommodated, it appears that the application should be granted.

ORDER

Public hearing having been held in the above-entitled proceeding and the matter having been duly submitted,

IT IS HEREEY ORDERED that applicant, Southern Pacific Company, be authorized to abandon its agency station at Ravendale, Lassen County, California, and to change its station records and tariffs accordingly, subject to the following conditions:

- (1) Applicant shall continue said station as a non-agency station.
- (2) Applicant shall store less-than-carload freight shipments under lock in the company's warehouse and the company telephone, located at this station, shall be made available

to patrons. The keys to both warehouse and telephone shall be obtainable from a custodian located at or near said station. Notice shall be maintained at said station advising prospective shippers and patrons where keys may be secured.

- (3) Applicant shall, within thirty (30) days thereafter, notify this Commission, in writing, of the abandonment herein authorized and of its compliance with the conditions hereof.
- (4) The authorization herein granted shall lapse and become void if not exercised within one (1) year from the date hereof unless further time is granted by subsequent order.

For all other purposes the effective date of this order shall be twenty (20) days from the date hereof.

(Commissioners)

Tovember Dated at San Francisco, California, this I day of

October, 1939.