MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

[illegible] DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	Press Mark
Dated	Rack

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 117. Read the following letter from Major E. LAWFORD, Officiating Chief Engineer; to the Secretary to Government, dated 29th July 1858, No. 2304.

SIR,

No 517, dated 14th July 1858, from District Engineer of Trichinopoly dated 24th July 1858, from Captain Crewe.

Referring to Extract Minutes of Consultation No. 1302, dated the 7th Instant, I have the honor to submit copies of letters marginally noted, relating to the death of Sub Overseer Horrox, whose suicide was, I have no doubt, the result of temporary insanity.

2. I have known Mr. Horrox for many years, and though a very valuable public servant, he always appeared, as Captain Crewe describes him, of a nervous temperament and much afraid of responsibility.

Letter from Lieutenant J. G. RYVES, District Engineer Trichinopoly; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, dated 14th July 1858, No. 517.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your resolution No. 1845, dated 10th Instant, directing me to furnish certain information called for by Government in the Extract Minutes Consultation under date the 7th idem, No. 1302.

1. Sub Overseer Horrox worked under Captain Crewe (then) Executive Officer in charge of the 1st Circle, in which range the Military Buildings at Trichinopoly lie.

2. I have no information as to the precise terms of the call made on the deceased.

3. It proceeded from Captain Crewe, the Circle Officer, to whom Sub-Overseer Horrox had to account for the expenditure incurred on the Military Buildings or other works under his charge.

4. The accounts of the deceased are found to be well and clearly kept and after examination have proved perfectly correct.

5. I have no information as to Captain Crewes' ideas regarding the circumstances attending Sub-Overseer Horrox's death; and therefore am unable to furnish the information called for in the last question put by the Government in their order above quoted.

Letter from Captain W. CREWE, late Executive Engineer T. D; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, dated 24th July 1858.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Extract Proceedings under date the 20th July 1858, No. 2076, forwading copies of the District Engineer's letter No. 517, of the 14th July 1858, and Extract Minutes Consultation No. 1302 of the 7th Idem for any explanation I may wish to offer.

2. With reference thereto, I would beg to state that the only call made by me on the late Sub-Overseer Mr. Horrox, was for his Account Current and Progress Report for the previous month, which should have been furnished eight days before.

3. I made this on the morning of the 10th June after the receipt of the Gazette containing my appointment as Deputy Superintendent of Revenue Survey.

4. Late in the forenoon of that day Mr. Horrox came to me with his cash account in his hand. He then appeared to be in a confused state of mind and asked me in a disconnected way who would settle the accounts connected with the Military Buildings after my departure.

5. The future accounts evidently occupied his thoughts rather than those I wanted; and after considerable hesitation he left me saying that he would try and bring me the latter the next day.

6. This was the last time I saw him before his death, which occurred on the following forenoon, but I am informed that after leaving me he showed decided symptoms that his mind was wandering.

7. The services of Serjeant Penna and Private McGuire, formerly Assistant Overseers in the Department Public Works having been placed at my disposal to assist in the constructions of the Temporary Barracks, had enabled me latterly greatly to lighten Mr. Horrox's duties, in the nature of and responsibility connected with which there was nothing that would have caused unusual anxiety to a person of an ordinary mind.

8. Mr. Horrox was, however, of a nervous temperament; had complained both to the District Engineer and myself of his mind being impaired, and had very reluctantly accepted the appointment of Sub Overseer to which he had been transferred from that of Draftsman to the District Engineer.

9. There are also circumstances connected with his private life, which I refrain from mentioning, as they are unauthenticated; but which if true, would necessarily have been the cause of distress and anxiety to him.

10. My opinion is therefore that the fear of the responsibility that the late Sub Overseer thought would devolve on him after my departure, suddenly acting on a nervous temperament and impaired mind, at the time perhaps more than usually excited, caused temporary aberration of intellect, under the effects of which he put an end to himself.

No. 118. ORDER THEREON, No. 1585; dated 10th August 1858.

Ordered that the foregoing letter be recorded.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary

Central Office of P.W.D.
Fort St. George
29th July 1858.

No. 2304

From
The Offg. Chief Engineer
To
The Secretary to Government P.W.D.

Sir,

Referring to Extract Minutes of Consultation No. 1302, dated the 7th Instant, I have the honor to submit copies of letters marginally noted, relating to the death of Sub Overseer Horrox, whose suicide was, I have no doubt, the result of temporary insanity.

2. I have known Mr. Horrox for many years, and though a very valuable public Servant, he always appeared, as Captain Crewe describes him, of a nervous temperament and much

Public.
Exd. Proceedings.

No. 1770 of 14th
Inst. from
District Engineer
of Trichinopoly
Dated 24th July 58
from Captain
Crewe.

miserably afraid of the responsibility —

To
His Excellency
The Governor
&c &c &c

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedt. Servt.
Lawrd Major
Offg Chief Engr.

To
The Secretary to Government
1819

Bundle

Com: 15th July 1858 No 7-8

2d Mark 1858 Vol 1 Page 1
Com: 16th August
No 1602

From The Offg. Chief Physician
To The Secy: of Govt.
No 20

Dated 29th July 1858.
Rec'd 29th do

No 2304

Encls 2

Submits Papers &
Correspondence Relative
to the death by Suicide
of Sub Overseer Perry.—

Will No. 1585.

10 Aug 1858

C4 Chief No 10