

On Monday morning about 9 o'clock as William Crooks aged 67 who was employed as gateman at the level crossing at Sutton near to the Golden Cross was in the act of moving some waggons to make a clear passage across the line, an engine belonging to the London and North Western Railway Company shunted some waggons from the main line into the siding which came forceably in contact with the waggons deceased was moving the poor fellow was knocked down the waggons passed over him and he died shortly afterwards. On Tuesday an inquest was held at the Golden Cross before C.E. Jefferies Esq on view of the body and after hearing the evidence several members of the jury expressed an opinion that the crossing was extremely dangerous and that at least an over foot bridge ought to be constructed for the safety and convenience of the public, frequently the crossing was blocked up with waggons and children going to and returning from the schools and also other persons on business had to wait a considerable time before they could get across and not unfrequently had to thread their way between waggons.

Mr Boyle said that he thought that the jury ought to make a presentment or recommendation on the subject to the railway company. The Coroner objected to anything of the sort on the ground that the deceased was a servant of the railway company, Mr Boyle replied that had there been a footbridge as suggested by the jury the deceased would in all probability had been then alive and he felt quite sure that if a proper representation of the case was made to any of the leading directors, Mr Daglish, Greenall, Douglas, or Smith they would rather do it at their own cost than imperil the lives of their Majesties subjects. The Coroner declined to add any recommendation and told Mr Boyle that he ought not to speak and intimated that he was an interested party, Mr Boyle denied that he was interested directly or indirectly except as one of the public and asked the Coroner whether it was to go forth that he refused to allow the Jury to add a presentment or recommendation to the verdict, the Coroner looking around said "it would not go forth there is no reporter here.

After some angry discussion the jury found a verdict of accidental death, it was then moved and seconded that the (foreman acting as chairman) that a presentment should be made signed by the whole of the Jury which was carried unanimously, the following is a copy of the original having been lodged in our hands.

We the undersigned being the Jury appointed to enquire into the cause of the death of William Crooks held at the Golden Cross, Sutton, resolved that we are of the opinion that an overbridge is necessary to protect the public from accident.

James Spencer, foreman,	William Greenall,
John P Boyle,	James Banks,
Edward Greenhough,	Thomas Morris,
Peter Ruyle,	John Ball,
Samuel Kelshaw,	James Gee,
James Grace,	Neville Muncaster.

We give the report as it as reached us, this is not the first time that we have heard of Mr Driffield acting in a very strange manner, we have some recollection of a fracas he had at Warrington a few years ago and if he is determined to act in these strange and unbecoming ways and sometimes objected to certain persons being on a Jury, at other times refusing to allow the Jury to express their opinions freely without control, we say that if such be his determination the sooner steps are taken to remove him from the responsible office he holds, the better.