

### **GRIM DISCOVERY.**

“I found him in a sitting position near the back gate. I caught ho'd of his hand to shake him, and found it was cold. I struck a match and held it to his nose, but the flame did not flicker.” Thus Frederick Holmes, a seaman of the Iron Knob's crew, described to the Deputy District Coroner (Mr. W. R. Pickett), at Newcastle, on Tuesday the discovery of the body of his mate, Robert Alexander Ernst, 52, at 71 Darby street, Newcastle, on October 27. Ernst, a Russian by birth, served in the world war, in which his spine was injured, and he was a military pensioner. Puzzled by the absence of Ernst, Holmes said, he had left a card game to search for him, with the result described. After the discovery of the body he was shown a cardboard packet, which he had not seen before. A month previously, Ernst had told him that he had taken poison in Sydney, but that help reached him just in time.

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