

DEATH CLAIMS MYSTERIOUS- CASTAWAY AFTER 49 YEARS

**"Gerome," Legless and Silent, Dies
Ward of Nova Scotia**

DIGBY, N. S., April 23.—Death has finally claimed "Gerome," a legless and silent foreigner of mystery, who was found marooned on the beach at Mink Cove in 1863. During nearly a half century the man had steadfastly refused to divulge the secret of his identity, his nationality or the reason of his abandonment by a strange vessel. Declining to talk, work, read or even look at pictures, "Gerome" spent his last days a ward of the government.

One afternoon in August, 1863, two fishermen saw an unknown schooner tack into the harbor. A boat was lowered over the vessel's side. The fishermen thought nothing of the incident. The next day a man was found in a dory on the shelving beach. A bottle of water and a package of sea biscuit were within his reach in the boat. The man's legs had been very recently cut off and the wounds were still fresh, the work having been done apparently by a skillful surgeon. When spoken to he moaned, almost unintelligibly "Gerome." Nothing more could be extorted from him and his silence was never broken.