



# Municipality of the District of Digby

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### The Elder Transcripts

**PROBABLY A TOTAL WRECK - THE SCHOONER MABEL, FROM WESTPORT FOR THIS PORT, GOES ON A LEDGE - ST. JOHN SUN.**

The schooner Mabel, from Westport, with fish for Leonard Bros., is probably a total wreck. George Welsh, mate of the vessel arrived in the city yesterday morning, and when seen by a Sun reporter gave the following story concerning the disaster;

"We left Westport on the 17th, with a cargo of fresh fish for Leonard Brothers of this city. The crew was composed of Capt. Norman Lent, myself as mate, my son Oliver, and Allen Moore as seamen. We had a fair trip across. About 7:00 P.M., we attempted to enter Black Harbor, but owing to the buoy having been taken away we got on the wrong side of the Pea Point ledge and struck on the sunken part. We got the boats out, and after throwing in to them what things we could, rowed up the harbor to the schooner Porpoise, Capt. Engalson, which was lying at anchor, and were taken aboard. When we left the Mabel, the rudder casing and false keel were floating alongside. Capt. Engalson got his vessel underway and bore down upon the Mabel. By this time Capt. Marion of the schooner E. Marion, had arrived on the scene with his boats and crew. Just as we arrived the vessel slid off the ledge and rolled over into the water. With the assistance of the 3 we succeeded in towing the Mabel to Pentlow's Cove and left her lying on her side. We stayed all night aboard the Porpoise, which laid out in the harbor. The next morning we went down to the Mabel and found her standing on her stem posts in seven fathoms of water with the heads of her masts and bowsprit standing out. We dragged her along to within 50 feet of the wharf, fastened her with a hawser and then left her. We then went up to Mr. Armstrong's on Bliss Island. We stopped there all night, but were very badly treated".

Mr. Welsh said that Mr. Quigley would not let them have one of his flock of 50 or 60 sheep to kill for food, for which they offered him his own price. They even had to beg a few potatoes. Next day they went down to the lighthouse, where they were very kindly treated by the lighthouse-keeper, Mr. Currey. On Saturday night Mr. Welsh again boarded the Porpoise, which sailed for St. John and arrived here about 2:00 yesterday morning. It is thought that the vessel will be lost. She is owned by Charles Leonard of this city and Frank R. Lent of Parrsboro (Derek's note: I believe this should have read Frank B. Lent, of Westport). Mr. Leonard, who is also one of the firm to whom the fish was consigned, on being interviewed, said that he hoped to save at least a portion of the cargo. She has no insurance.

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