

WILD SCENES OCCUR IN LENS

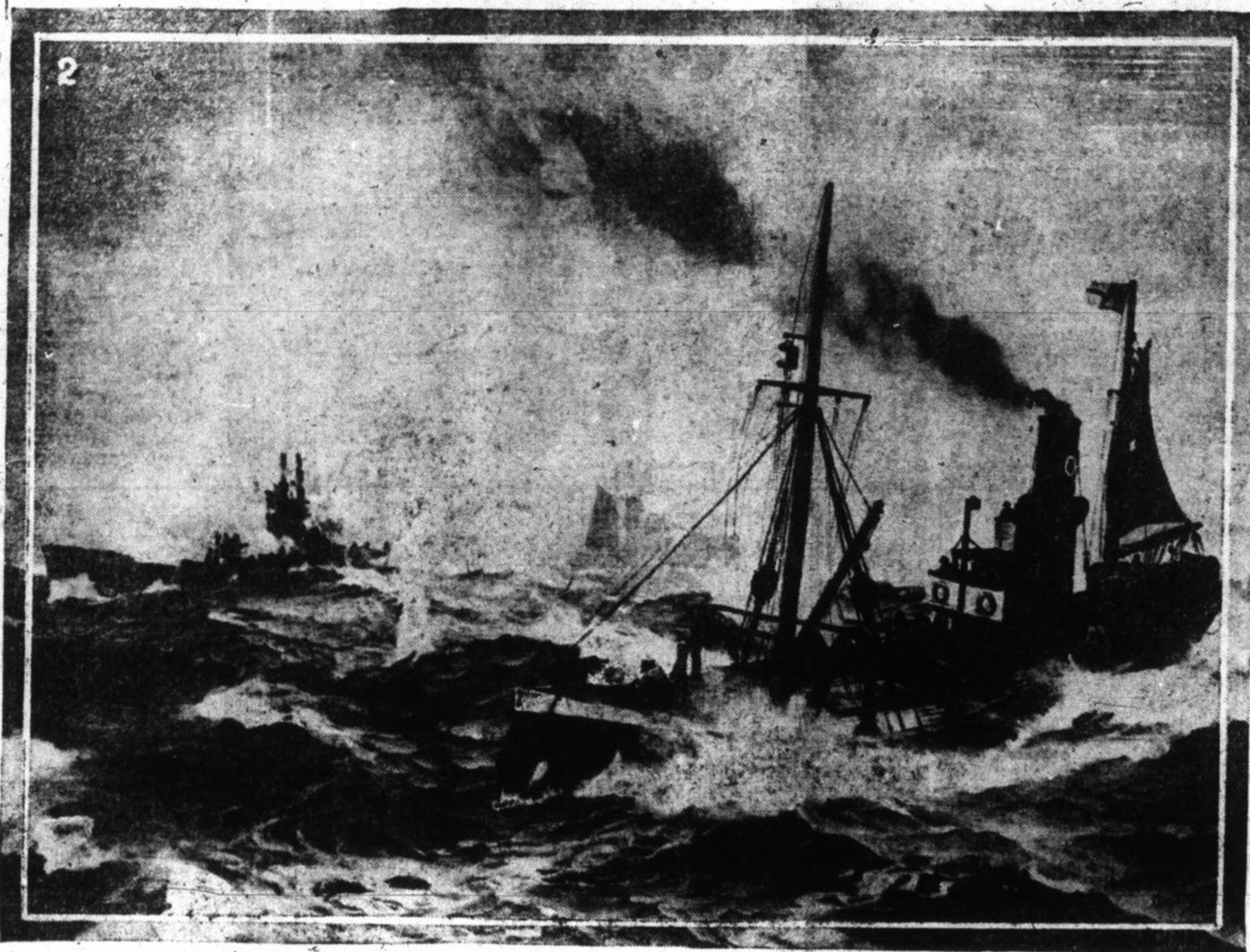
When Beaten Germans Attempted to Save Guns and Supplies.

THE FRENCH COAL CAPITAL

CAUSES FIERCEST FIGHTING FOR ITS POSSESSION.

The Recapture of Lens Will Cause a Thrill Through all France—A Tremendous Feat of Arms for the British Troops.

War Correspondents' Headquarters, April 15.—The capture of Vimy ridge has been followed swiftly by great and far-reaching results. Our troops pushed forward to-day through Lievin, a long and straggling suburb of Lens, clearing street after street of German machine gunners and rear-guard posts, and our patrols have already penetrated into Lens itself, which is famous in France as the capital and centre of her northern mine fields. The retaking of this city of mine shafts and pits heads, electrical power stations, and a great hive of mining activity, where the population is something like 40,000 people, who lived in rows of red brick cottages under a forest of high chimneys and mountainous slag-heaps, will cause a thrill through all France, and will be one of the greatest achievements of the war, a tremendous feat of arms for the British troops.



A German submarine attacking a British mine sweeper in the North Sea.

Battle in the Outskirts.

I looked into the city to-day, down its silent and deserted streets, and I saw a body of our men working forward to get into the heart of it. They attacked a little wooded hill called Bois de Riamont, just south of the city, and with great cunning and courage, encircled its lower slopes and made their way into a street of houses behind a line of trees which is the southern way into Lens. From the western side up through Lieven other troops were advancing cautiously. The enemy is still there in machine-gun redoubts, which will be very troublesome to our gallant men, but they are only rear-guards, for the main body of the enemy has already retreated. When the Canadians swept over Vimy ridge, capturing thousands of prisoners, and when yesterday the British and Canadian troops seized Bois-en-Hache, and "The Pimple," at the northern end of Vimy ridge, the enemy saw his last chance of a

successful counter-attack foiled, and at once he was seized with fear, and prepared for instant retreat in wild confusion. Lens and Lievin had been attacked with his own guns. Both towns had been fortified in a most formidable way, and were strongholds of massed artillery. It is certain the enemy had at least 150 guns in that great network of mines and pitheads, but they were all threatened by the advance down the northern slopes of Vimy, and the Canadians were not likely to stay inactive after their great triumph. They were also threatened by the British advance from the Loos battlefield by way of that great pair of black slag hills called the Double Crassier, famous in this war for close, long and bloody fighting, where since September, 1915, our men have been only a few yards away from the enemy. The German staff knew their great peril yesterday before.

Wild Scenes in Lens. From prisoners we know wild

scenes took place in Lens, frantic efforts being made to get away the guns and stores, to defend the line of retreat by blowing up roads to carry out orders for complete destruction by firing charges down the mine shafts, flooding the great mine galleries so that the French property of enormous value should not be left to France, and withdrawing great bodies of troops down the roads under fire of our long-range guns. Up to dawn yesterday the enemy in Lens hoped the British pursuit would be held back by the German rear-guards in Vimy and Petit Vimy villages, but the hope was flung from them when the Canadians swept down the ridge and chased the enemy out of those places on the lower slopes toward Douai.

40,000 Dentists Prepare.

New York, April 16.—Forty thousand dentists, scattered throughout the country, are ready today to fix the teeth of men who have been refused admission to the army or navy because of such a defect.

HINDENBURG LINE A MYTH

That Was Painted to Hearten the German People?

London, April 16.—A number of European military writers have taken the view that the Hindenburg line was a myth painted to hearten the German people. But the British general staff for some time has known that there is a definite Hindenburg line upon which the German staff was basing its defense and has known exactly where that line was drawn.

If the British army can break through a vital or important sector, the next chapter may be a further extensive German retreat if, indeed the Germans are able to retreat in order with Field Marshal Haig's army pressing them as closely as it is doing now.

About the time a man begins to have good common sense old age makes him childish and he can't use it.

FINANCIAL NOTES.

Huge Steel Orders Under Way.

New York, April 16.—About 200,000 tons of structural steel and 42,000 tons of armor plate are needed for work already begun for the navy or about to begin. One steel man says the immediate needs of the Government will command 20 per cent. of the entire production of the country. There will be, however, no shortage of munitions when the United States forces actually take the field against Germany.

Bethlehem Steel Earnings.

New York, April 16.—Earnings of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation are running above the average of last year, notwithstanding that the company is now working largely on domestic business.

The Fourth Advance.

New York, April 16.—According to Elbert H. Gary, chairman of the United States Steel Corporation, the ten per cent. advance in the wages of the employees of that corporation announced this week is the fourth increase made since the beginning of 1916, and makes the average labor pay approximately 46 per cent. higher than it was at the beginning of that year.

\$25,000,000 Per Annum.

Boston, April 16.—It is estimated that earnings of Inspiration Consolidated Copper Company approximate \$2,000,000 a month, or at the rate of about \$25,000,000 per annum. Against this earning power the company pays dividends of \$8 a year.

Commercial Notes.

Cigarette sales in this country in February amounted to very near 2,500,000,000 cigarettes. This is an increase of nearly 8,000,000 cigarettes, or approximately fifty per cent. over February, 1916.

The Montreal City and District Savings Bank has issued a call for an additional twenty-five per cent., or \$500,000 on the bank's subscribed capital of \$2,000,000, of which the amount now paid up is \$1,000,000.

Employees of Eastman Kodak Company will receive nearly \$1,000,000 from the sixth annual wage dividend which will be voted by stockholders at the annual meeting in Jersey City. This compares with \$821,000 last year. The date of distribution is July 1st. In the last five years \$3,000,000 has been distributed to employees.

Alberta coal mines showed the largest increase in production of any province during 1916, with an increase of over a million tons more than the previous year. The only province that stands ahead of Alberta is Nova Scotia, which turned out nearly seven million tons, while Alberta's estimated showing is almost four and a half million tons.

U.S. SLACKERS THROUGH

City Inspectors Find Them in Lodging Houses.

Toronto, April 17.—That large numbers of able-bodied young Americans, too proud to fight, are seeking a shelter in Canada is apparent from the reports of those whose duties lead them to places of abode usually inhabited by immigrants.

One city official found in three lodging houses twenty-five young Americans, some of whom candidly admitted their repugnance to taking up arms, and had sought refuge in Canada from the recruiting officer. All of them, it is alleged, were apparently qualified to perform military duty.

They were found in some of the cheaper lodging houses, where, on account of temporary financial embarrassment, they found a haven pending the securing of employment.

It generally happens that if sympathy is in one pocket, and money in the other, our hand gets to the sympathy side first.



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