

# MUCH STRENGTH IN NEW LINES

## French Victories Add Greatly to the Power of Defence

(By G. H. PERRIS.)

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Cable to The Globe and The New  
York Times.)

With the French Armies (Fri-  
day), July 12.—The village of Long-  
pont, on the edge of the Villers-Cot-  
terets Forest and in the saucer of  
the Savieres Valley, was recovered  
without great difficulty last night,  
and this success, with the capture  
of Corcy, two miles farther south,  
its chateau and railway station, and  
the farms of St. Paul and Javages,  
practically completes the scheme of  
local operations by which the  
French army has obtained a strong  
defensive front between the Aisne  
and the Ourcq. To the extent of  
four-fifths this new front is defined  
by the valley of the Retz from the  
Aisne to St. Pierre Aigle and the  
valley of the Savieres from Long-  
pont to the Ourcq, the two deep ra-  
vines constituting a frontier that  
will not easily be broken. Between  
them we hold the high plateau of  
Chavigny Farm, blocking the high  
road from Soissons to Villers-Cot-  
terets.

### Blocking Way to Paris.

On the other two main lines of  
the German thrust towards Paris,  
there has also been a considerable  
change for the better in the period  
of the enemy's inactivity since the  
last arrest of his offensive. On the  
south, the French and Americans  
have pushed forward and greatly  
strengthened their positions near  
Chateau Thierry and in the Cllgnon  
Valley. On the north of the Oise  
the barrage across the Compiègne  
road has been reinforced by the cap-  
ture of hills, carrying the Porte and  
Loges farms which have given very  
useful views of the German lines.

Nothing yet appears to diminish  
the significance of these successes,  
marked by the taking of thousands  
of prisoners and by other enemy  
losses more severe than our own.  
One of our prisoners just taken  
north of Compiègne, an officer who  
seems worthy of credence, says the  
epidemic of Spanish influenza has  
made serious ravages among the  
German troops of this sector. In  
his battalion 108 men have already  
been evacuated. In companies of  
neighboring regiments there was an  
average of from 35 to 50 men under  
medical treatment.

### Why Huns Losing.

There are many other reasons  
why Ludendorff should suffer useful  
positions to be lost and Hindenburg  
should counsel patience to his cor-  
respondents. Recent army orders,  
signed by von Hutier and Marwitz,  
show clearly there is a fall of mor-  
ale in the armies of these command-  
ers and an increase in cases of open  
disobedience. The fighting qualities  
of the American troops are admit-  
ted, though grudgingly, in the Ger-  
man press. Nevertheless, the Ger-  
man mass of manoeuvre must be  
used and the blow may fall any  
moment. The French army has all  
its eyes open.