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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1916

DEFEAT FOR FOE ON SOMME

Forts Taken Which Germans Called Impregnable

PARIS SEES

Neutral Writer Finds Further Proof For Assertion That Germany's Hopes Will be Buried on The Western Front

(By Wythe Williams in special cable to The New York Times.) Paris, Sept. 5-After visiting the Somme front early in August, I made the statement, based not on what I was told by military authorities, but on personal observation as a neutral correspondent, that the French offensive on the Somme was only the beginning; that it would ultimately be greater than any previous French offensive, and that it would end only in a crushing defeat for Germany. A few days later, as if in answer to that assertion, a statement appeared in the New York papers, on the authority of a German general, that "the French offensive had failed." Almost in the same breath he remarked that no commander in this war would make a statement for publication, since it showed a

mander in this war would make a statement for publication, since it showed a lack of confidence, irrespective of what he knew to be the truth.

If proof were needed as to the character of the French offensive, the events on the Somme since Saturday go far to supply it. In two days' battle of four of five fighting hours each the French forces have inflicted defeat on the flower of the German army, have taken more than 6,000 unwounded prisoners, with corresponding military trophies, have stormed what the Germans asserted were

that since July 1 the French have advanced along a fifteen mile front to a depth of five to ten miles, that everything they have won has been held against no matter what reaction, that each day's objective has always been attained and at minimum loss, and finally that the ground thus won was defended by ample forces and strengthened with every device of modern war. attained and at minimum loss, and mally that the ground thus won was defended by ample forces and strengthened with every device of modern warfare. It may be said by some that at Verdun also the Germans progressed regularly for a time, only to fall in the end. But there is an all-important difference. Their advance was compelled gradually to narrow almost to a point, with the result that the concentrated fire of the French artillery broke the wedge end as often as the Germans tried to thrust it further.

On the Somme the French front of attack has steadily widened—first in the tack has steadily widened—first in the vaders' whole system of fortifications river bend, then north of the stream to from the sea to Switzerland.

ROYAL DOULTON WARE

Respective patterns and shapes in the confines of Lassigny and to the confines of Lassigny and the confines of a dike, through which the whole flood and plow.

Theirs is Grant's method—inexorable reduction in the eyesight cannot very redical reduction in the eyesight cannot be reduction in the eduction in the eyesight cannot be reduction



Photo shows part of a trainload of girls on the way to the seaside where there are scarcely enough males to man the lifevoats, owing to the military situation in the old country.

str. Gor Cohb, Boston via Maine ports, but weather the concert was postponed until the evening.

BUCOIT GOOD of EMM

The Young Ladies' Patriotic Association of St. John placed itself on record places on their own side have added, it is estimated here, 9,000 men to the list of German causalities.

The Young Ladies' Patriotic Association of St. John placed itself on record performance in the most difficult warfare since the history of battles began. The continue of the first work of the four causalities from the Hittle wood of Marriere, near since the history of battles began. The meeting was purely of a business face the first law counter attacks from the Hittle wood of Marriere, near since the history of battles began. The meeting was purely of a business face their first law counter attacks from the Hittle wood of Marriere, near since the history of battles began. The meeting was purely of a business face their first law counter attacks from the Hittle wood of Marriere, near since the history of battles began. The meeting was purely of a business face their first law counter attacks from the Hittle wood of Marriere, near since the history of battles began. The meeting was purely of a business face the first law counter attacks from the Hittle wood of Marriere, near since the history of battles began. The meeting was purely of a business face the first law counter attacks from the Hittle wood of Marriere, near since the history of battle began. The meeting was purely of a business face the first law counter and the first show purely battle the first show the proceed to Allonate. The first hour partial was been done to the first show that the first show will be for the followers of the first show will be first sho

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work suffer because parts of it are undone.

Let any one, who is tempted to ask if the French offensive has failed, recall that since July 1 the French have advanced along a fifteen mile front to a vanced along a vanced along a fifteen mile front to a

RADICAL REDUCTION

that a recruit must have one-quart perfect vision in one eye—preferably a shooting optic—and a tenth in the oth This means that any man with ordi ary useful vision, need not fear bein turned down on account of his eyes.

turned down on account of his eyes. It also meant much more. During the last two years thousands of menhave been rejected because their eyes would not respond to the extreme tests applied. At first the tests demanded practically perfect eyesight. Then they were reduced considerably about a year ago. Now they have come down to a point where the ordinary man on the street, who sees well enough for his regular business, will be counted as able to see enough to shoot Germans at anywhere from 30 to 500 yards. At longer distances the artillery attends to the case. Another result of this reduction is tests is that it will enable these

the tests is that it will enable these thousands of men who have been rejected on account of defective eyesight, to "come back." During the past two years one of the most prolific causes of rejections has been the high standard of eyesight required. Every battalion organized in the district has had hundreds of men rejected because their sight would not meet the metriculous measurements demanded. A large percentage of these men are now available for service, and it is hoped they will apply again.

apply again. For Modern Needs The main reason for this reduction in the cyesight test was that experience during two years had shown that present standards had been composed on previous wars. The present fighting did not demand long distance sight, nor much more than the ordinary ability to point a rifle straight at distances generally around a hundred or two hundred yards, and seldom beyond 500 yards. yards, and seldom beyond 500 yards. It is expected that a large number of rejected men will return to the call, and that a much greater percentage of volunteers will be accepted in future as a

result of this arrangement. Showing Signs.
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"No, but I have hopes; he has taker
to ordering the servants about."—Life.

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