

But the aspect of the battle has greatly changed during these twenty days. The German line on September 18th, from west to east, lay from Noyon on the Oise, through Soissons, Craonne, Rheims, Sernon, Varennes, Montfaucon, to the River Meuse. On their right they have been pushed back, and on their left they have gained ground; but the principal feature has been the attempt of the Allies again to turn their western flank. First, the French pushed up to Roye, Ham and Peronne, but the Germans faced them resolutely on this new line, and as the French extended their lines further north, the Germans have faced them anew as far north as Arras and Lille, and to the Belgian frontier, and almost to the sea. So, in addition to a front of 100 miles from west to east, they are now fighting also on a new line at right angles from Noyon, on the western end, for another eighty miles from south to north.

All this time you may note that the Germans hold on to the line of navigable canals connecting the Aisne and the Oise, and the Sambre and the Meuse; for it is by those waterways that the Germans can transport all their heavy supplies of food and ammunition, on big barges of 600 tons each, the whole way from Germany.

On the sea, the course of the war has been as satisfactory as we had expected. German commerce has been driven off the seas. The high sea fleets are lying under the shelter of their land fortifications where they are safe from attack, for the present. If the fleet come out to fight, I believe they will be destroyed. If they are kept in port, they will ultimately be taken or sunk by a combined movement by land and sea. Meanwhile, many small fast cruisers had been stationed in all the seas ready for the pre-concerted