

eastward ; and the German armies dashed to the attack. But they failed to win through. Not only that but they were themselves attacked on their western flank and compelled to yield ground ; and at last, after fighting from September 6th to September 14th they retreated some thirty miles and entrenched themselves on the line of the river Aisne and were themselves attacked. In the battle on the Marne, the British troops again proved their fighting value, and it is a pride to us that the German retreat was first commenced between Meaux and Chateau Thierry where the British pressed home their advantage.

Now the battle on the River Aisne which began on September 18th shows signs of ending. Again it is at the point where the British are that the Germans have shown the first signs of yielding ground ; and from Soissons to Craonne the British have been making headway since October 5th. Strategists have long ago named this particular front on the River Aisne as the battle field on which the destination of France would be decided. I hope and trust that on this historic ground (for it was here that Napoleon fought his finest defensive campaign in 1814) that the salvation of France will be found and that the defeat of Germany will commence.

On the Russian side, the Germans have made good the defence of East Prussia. The Austrians have, as usual, been defeated, but the line of battle is now formed in Russian Poland, on the line of the Vistula. The united forces of Germany and Austria may capture Warsaw, but I am sure that they cannot win a decisive battle this year, and I think that they may be disastrously defeated.