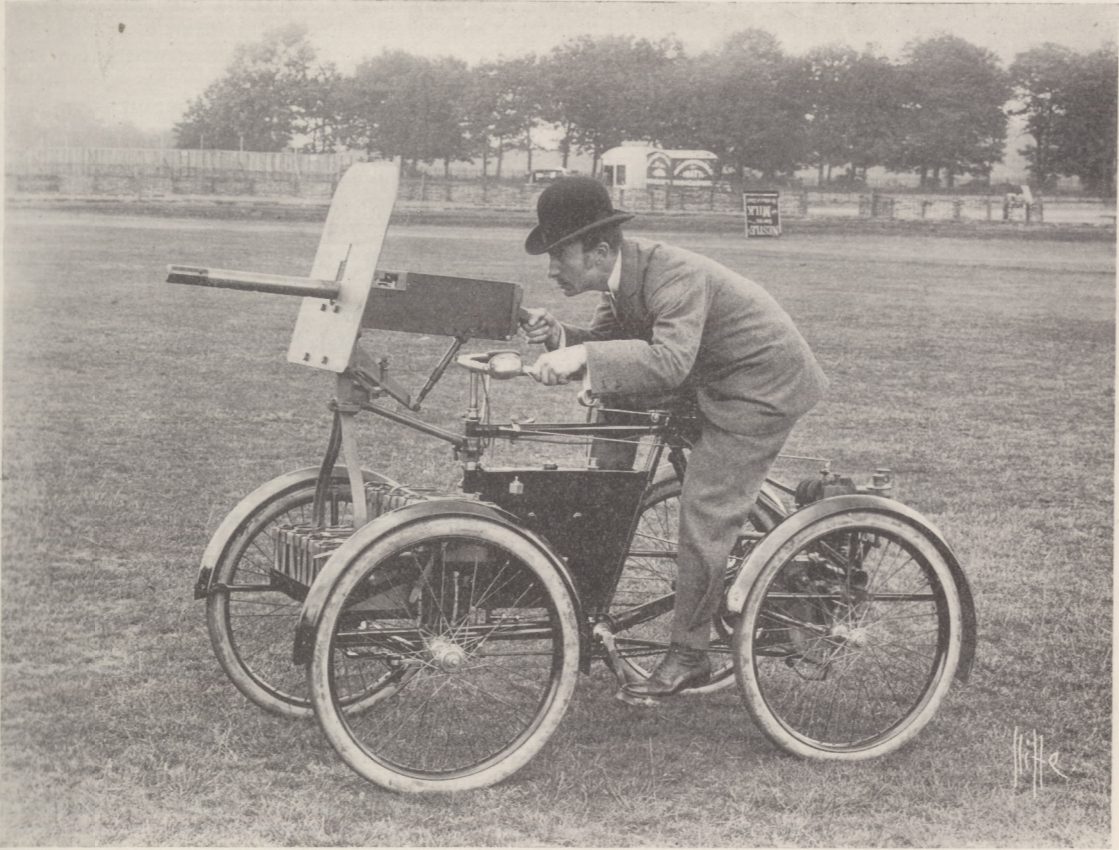


THE SIMMS "MOTOR SCOUT."



Those of our readers who happened to be at the Automobile Club Show at Richmond during certain hours of the day may remember being startled by warlike sounds which proceeded from the driving track, and which we may say, the first time they were heard, caused quite a little stampede in their direction. These were produced by the Maxim gun on the Simms "motor scout," which we illustrate above, and which shows its designer, Mr. F. R. Simms, engaged in sighting the gun whilst travelling at some speed. The Maxim is of the standard mark IV. pattern, and the quadricycle, as a whole, has all the flexibility and manageability of machines of its type, which, as autocarists now, means that practically anything can be done with it in reason. The gun and its ammunition take the place of the front rider. The motor is a full one and a half horse-power. We should add that a thousand rounds of ammunition are carried in front in such a position as to be within reach of the rider without dismounting. Enough petrol is carried in the running tank for a run of one hundred and twenty miles, but by fitting a spare petrol receptacle the range of the machine can be doubled. It is hardly necessary to say that Simms's magneto-electric ignition is fitted

The possibilities of the "motor scout" from a military point of view are very great, and its usefulness, in intelligent hands, to any force fighting in a civilised country, is almost incalculable. Some of the criticisms of this machine have shown that their

writers scarcely appreciate its uses. That is to say, the "motor scout" is not intended for charging, nor for running over ploughed fields, but as a cover for or support of infantry or cavalry in any country where decent roads were available it would be invaluable. There is a proper use for the cavalryman and for the infantryman, not to mention siege guns and machine guns, but no one dreams of adversely criticising the foot-soldier because he is not an artillerist, and it is just as absurd to criticise the "scout" because its range of usefulness, though great, has its limits.

Mr. Simms has also designed a much heavier type of military car, known as the "war motor car." This mounts two quick-firing Maxims, which are carried on two miniature barbettes with armour-shields to each gun. The whole of the vehicle is armour plated, whilst it has a ram in front and behind. A series of mirrors are arranged so that the men in charge can steer without exposing themselves above the plating, and the machine will be fitted with a searchlight, the dynamo being worked from the main engine, which will be a four-cylinder of sixteen horse-power, and the electrical equipment, it is proposed, shall be further utilised to give shock to persons who may be able to get near enough to this engine of war to attempt to scale it. The whole construction of the car is massive in the extreme, and we hope in a later issue, when it is completed, to give full details of it.