

# The Motor as a Fighting Factor

Various uses of the Petrol Engine—The British Trump Card.

A fascinating theme, "The Motor in War"! We are not permitted to know all that will some day be told about it, but sufficient has slipped past the watchful censor to prove that warfare has changed in a revolutionary way, not because of fresh and brilliant genius in strategy, increase in gun range, or the organization of the human factor. What good would twenty-mile range guns be, if they were simply firing "into the blue"? The aeroplane gives the artillery the telescopic eye, so to speak, and most

Marne, to suddenly concentrate twenty thousand Frenchmen on an unexpected spot. They were all swiftly taken there from Paris in motor buses. The lightning stroke turned the scales. The onward march of the Hun was checked almost within sight of the capital, then slowly pushed back, thanks to that brilliant stroke of the veteran Gallieni, who found the motor a great aid to his plans.

Although the war came upon France at a time when its automobile organization was not yet com-



THE NEWER TYPE OF PARIS MOTOR OMNIBUS.

Designed to meet the requirements of the Military Authorities. It can rapidly be turned into an Ambulance by replacing the seats with stretchers.

gunners now fire at an invisible mark, thanks to the perfection of observation due largely to the aeroplane.

What would Hun "frightfulness" have accomplished without the Zeppelin and submarine, both made possible by the inter-combustion engine? Their "kultured" methods would have been limited to disseminating disease germs in sweets and imported food-stuffs, arranging time-work bombs and spontaneous combustion packages in steamer's holds.

And the Hun might, after all, have entered Paris but for the humble motor omnibus which enabled General Gallieni, in the fateful days of Mons and the

plate, it would be an exaggeration to say that the aggression of which they were the victims in August, 1914, found them unprepared in matters connected with motor transport. Those who were at that time following the annual military trials of motor vehicles were astonished to see the lorries on their return to their depot at Versailles upon one of the last days of July receive an order directing them to set out immediately for the Eastern frontier. These lorries, which had not then terminated their tests, were thus submitted to a new trial which had not figured anywhere upon the programme.