



## Comprehension

### William Morris and the Motor Car

William Morris watched the coming of the motor car with great interest. In 1900 he began fitting petrol engines to bicycles, and soon he was making motor cycles in his Oxford workshop. At Detroit, in the United States, a young man named Henry Ford was building motor cars that were much cheaper than other models, and Morris resolved to do the same. He planned to make a popular car which would be so cheap that ordinary families could enjoy the pleasures of motoring.

In 1913 the first Morris-Oxford car was on sale to the public. It cost £165. It had the famous bull-nose radiator and a canvas hood to give protection from the weather. So many people could afford to buy this light two-seater that orders came pouring in. Larger works were soon needed, so Morris bought up some empty buildings at Cowley where he planned to manufacture another car that would be even cheaper.

Two years later he produced the first Morris-Cowley.

from **Makers of Britain**, Book 4, by M. W. Thomas