

Two years later Wm. Redpath and Andrew Reid of Toronto came in and organized the Redpath Motor Company. Among the local shareholders were: T. A. McLellan, David B. Bowman, and George Seiler. The company leased the "incubator" in Hall's lane from C. B. Dunke, and set out to manufacture a replica of a one-cylinder French car.

The main difficulty was to hire mechanics who could build gas-engines and who could properly cast aluminum parts. Their scrap-pile rose higher and their capital-sum fell lower. Moreover, their cars were excessive in price, and in time the attempt was given up.

While they were engaged in their experiments, R. R. Olds of Detroit came over to compare notes, while the guest of Oscar Rumpel. He had just organized the Oldsmobile Company to make a one-cylinder car with a chain drive. After his visit he abandoned the one-cylinder car and made first a two-cylinder and then a four-cylinder car with a shaft drive.

After he had gone the rumor spread that Henry Ford had been here. It was whispered that he might buy an interest in the Redpath Company and remove to Berlin. To clear up the point, a letter was written to Mr. Ford in Detroit. Through his secretary he answered on January 7, 1931, and said,

Referring to your letter of December 5th.

Mr. Ford paid a visit to Kitchener in the year 1920, which is the only visit he recalls ever having made. This was long after the Ford Motor Company was in existence. His visit to Kitchener was only a result of passing through on his way to the Toronto Exposition.