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## WHAT CAN BE DONE.

Never in the world's history has there been such an exemplification of what can be done when the necessity arises, in all branches of industry, thought, research, finance, invention and everything else that goes to make up the life of nations and individuals, than the process of evolution which, starting in August 1914, has continued and continues until one wonders what will come next. Persons, schemes and ideas which, before the war, were in the "unheard of" class, are now the very persons and ideas to which those who previously scoffed, now look to as the one means by which maximum efficiency may be attained. Examples of these things are so numerous and so well known to all that to cite such is hardly necessary. Because the war has come so much closer home to them, it is but natural to look to the other side of the Atlantic for the best illustrations of this state of affairs. When we think of the opinions held but a few years ago of the present Prime Minister of Great Britain, when we think of Labour members in the British Cabinet, when we think of the Government, we can faintly realize some of the results of that process of evolution. It shows what CAN be done when it is considered necessary. It is said that Necessity is the Mother of Invention. But very many of the present practices were invented, thought of, expounded and advocated, long before the present war. So, then, if it be true that Necessity is the Mother of Invention, in this case, can we not call War the foster parent who has brought up these efficient reforms until they have become actual realities. Undoubtedly, it is an awful foster parent to have to own, but, even so, since it has given us these reforms, it behoves us not to lose them after we have left the foster parent away behind, as we hope soon to do. But, since this is being written for the Postal Journal, what relation has all the foregoing to the Post Office? Surely the Post Office is not so insignificant that it cannot do its small part toward the work of reform that will

be necessary after the war—that, indeed, is necessary now. We are told that, after the war, the interest on Canada's war debt and her pensions alone, will amount to one hundred million dollars a year and that Canada's revenue for the year 1901 was only one hundred and one millions. A gentleman by the name of Mr. Sidney Webb, published a book last year entitled, "How to pay for the war". In it, he claims that the British Postal Service "could increase its profits by six millions of pounds a year, were it courageous enough to go into the field against certain vested interests". We believe that, were the Canadian Postal Department to be "popularized", it too could play no small part in relieving the financial burden of the Government. At the present time most of the Post Office revenue is derived from these branches of the Service which are monopolized by the Government. On the other hand, in those branches of the Service, where the Government is required to compete against "Big Business", but a small amount of the business comes her way. Surely this is because the Department does not get out after the business, it does not make the local Post Office a popular institution for such transactions. The financial necessity caused by the war may now bring about the required reforms and the Post Office may show what CAN be done. As one small example of what can be done, take the Savings Bank. A person places his money in the P. O. Savings Bank. When he wants his money out again, what happens? He must write and tell Ottawa all about it and wait until Ottawa replies and then what—? He finds he's got a cheque on some private banking institution! Is that popular business? If you are not sure as to the answer, compare the savings bank deposits in the Post Office with those in the chartered banks of the country. But what CAN be done? To-day, the Government needs the people's money. There is a necessity. As a consequence, we have a far more popular idea in the form of war savings certificates. There is no fuss to put your money in and no trouble to get it out