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THE RUNNERS

By L. McLEOD GOULD.

Inspired by the Runners of the 102nd Canadian Infantry Battalion.

(Reprinted from "Canada in Khaki," 1917.)

When soldiers are ready to drop with fatigue,
And only an Adjutant's brain can intrigue
A vital despatch to his C.O.'s colleague,
Who are the boys who can still stay a league?
The Runners.

When wires are broken and pigeons won't fly,
When shrapnel and bullets are raining on high,
When hell's on the earth and earth's in the sky,
Who are the boys who will get through or die?
The Runners.

Then here's to all soldiers of every degree,
Be they horsemen, or gunners, or stout infantry,
But specially to those who appeal most to me,
Who tackle their work with a semblance of glee,
The Runners.