LATVIA

GENERAL

Area .................. 65,791 sq. km.
Inhabitants (1923) .... 1,885,870
Per sq. km. ............ 28.7

I

Recruiting System.

Military service is compulsory; it begins at the age of 20 and lasts until the age of 50. The length of service with the regular army is 18 months, but in practice it is only 15 months. Men who have completed their service with the Regular Army are transferred to the army reserves for a period of 18 years, after which they remain in the territorial army until the age of 50.

Budgetary Effectives (1925).

Medical officers and military officials .......... 1,960
Instructors and men .......................... 17,417
Total ...................................... 19,377
Aviation ........................................ 366

Composition of the Army.

The Latvian Army consists of four divisions. Each division contains:

3 infantry regiments,
1 field artillery regiment.

Each field artillery regiment consists of:
6 batteries, each of four guns.

The Army also includes:
1 cavalry regiment of 5 squadrons, including a machine-gun squadron,
1 regiment of heavy artillery with 3 batteries, each of four guns,
1 battalion of sappers,
1 aviation detachment,
1 electro-technical detachment,
1 company of armoured cars (2 tanks and 3 armoured cars),
1 motor transport company (30 drivers).
Material in Use in the Units.

Rifles and carbines .................................. 17,783
Pistols or revolvers .................................. 1,473
Automatic rifles ...................................... 650
Heavy machine-guns .................................. 212
Guns or howitzers (calibre less than 120 mm.) .... 114
Guns or howitzers (calibre of 120 mm. and over) .... 13
Tanks .................................................. 2
Aeroplanes: Bombing machines ...................... 13
Reconnaissance machines ............................ 7
Fighting machines ................................. 6

II.

Budget Expenditure on National Defence.

A. Notes on Budget Procedure.

1. The financial year covers the period April 1st to March 31st.

2. The expenditure is divided into ordinary and extraordinary, the latter containing not only capital outlay but other exceptional charges. The expenditure for military constructions is accounted for as extraordinary expenditure.

3. The budget is gross, receipts by the various departments being shown as revenue and not deducted from the corresponding items of expenditure.

B. Budget Expenditure on National Defence.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of War</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ordinary expenditure</td>
<td>28.1</td>
<td>29.1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extraordinary expenditure</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>31.3</td>
<td>35.2</td>
<td>38.5</td>
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1 Not available.

The increase in the defence expenditure is explained by higher cost of living, new appropriations for military constructions and increase of military stocks.

Appropriations for frontier police amounting to 2.1 million lats in 1925-26 are included in the Ministry of the Interior.

Sources.

Communications from the Government.