THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

GENERAL

Area . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 50,070 sq. km.
Population (24-XII-1920) . . 894,665
Per sq. km . . . . . . . . . . 17.9
Length of railways (1926) . . 247 km.

Police Force.

The Dominican Republic has no army, but it has a police force whose duty it is to ensure obedience to the laws and maintain public order. The National Police is an armed force under the orders of the Executive.

Administratively, it takes its orders direct from the Secretary of State for the Interior and Police; in judicial matters it is under the Public Prosecutor’s Department.

The National Police force consists of a staff and a number of companies.

It is commanded by a colonel, who resides in the capital of the Republic.

The staff or headquarters of the National Police further includes a chief of staff, an adjutant, an officer in charge of legal matters and secret service, a Medical Director, an Intendant-General, an Assistant Intendant, and a bandmaster.

Territorial Division.

With a view to the organisation and distribution of the National Police and for the purposes of its administration and supply, the Dominican Republic is divided into two departments — the Southern Department and the Northern Department.

Each is placed under the orders of a major, who has the title of Director of the Department.

Detachments and posts of the National Police may be established in the communes and cities, on the frontier between the Republic and Haiti, and in small towns, village settlements, sugar factories and other large undertakings, and in the rural cantons.
Recruiting.

The National Police is recruited by voluntary enlistment. Applicants must sign an undertaking to serve for 2 years.

Strength (1928): 115 officers, 137 N.C.O.s and 1,834 men, divided into 18 companies.

Budget Expenditure on National Defence.

The expenditure on the National Police (converted into a national army in May 1928) amounted to:

- 964,104 pesos in 1925, and is estimated at
- 860,000 » for 1926,
- 1,472,642 » » 1927, and
- 1,572,694 » » 1928.