LIBERIA

GENERAL

Area . . . . . . . . . . . . . 120,000 sq. km.
Population (estimate) . . . 2,500,000
Density per sq. km. . . . . . 20.8

I.

Army.

A. SUPREME MILITARY AUTHORITY AND ITS ORGANS

The President of the Republic is Commander-in-Chief of the army and navy; in the recess of the Legislature he has power to call out the militia or any portion thereof into actual service in the defence of the Republic.

I. DEPARTMENT OF WAR.

The President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate appoints a Secretary of State for War, who is the head of the War Department, and who serves during the pleasure of the President.

All forts, batteries, arsenals, guns, swords, weapons, and war implements of all kinds, stores and all other matters pertaining to the War Department are under the immediate control of the Secretary of War subject to the Commander-in-Chief.

2. MILITARY COUNCIL.

There is a Military Council composed of the Major-General, the Surgeon-General, the Adjutant-General, the Judge-Advocate-General, the Brigadier-General, and Brigade-Majors of each brigade, the Colonel, Lieutenant-Colonel, and Majors of each regiment. The Council formulates regulations for the drill, equipment, uniform, discipline and government of the militia, and shall prescribe the duties of officers in the absence of any statutory provision.
The President is Chief of the Council; the Secretary of War is President of the Council, and may designate an officer to preside in his absence; the Adjutant-General is the Secretary of the Council. The Regulations of the Council are promulgated through the War and Navy Department.

B. COMPOSITION OF THE ARMY

Militia.

In peace time the army is organised on a militia basis. There are seven infantry regiments, grouped in two brigades. Each regiment consists of 2 battalions with 4 companies each.

The charter of every such volunteer company contains a clause requiring the members of such company to equip themselves fully according to law, and to hold themselves ready at all times to be called out for actual service.

Every volunteer company may be disbanded as soon as it is reduced below the number of forty rank and file.

Frontier Force.

The Liberian Frontier Force is under the direction and supervision of the War Department, which appoints to its command as Commandant and Inspector an officer of the rank of Colonel of the Liberian Army. The Frontier Force is stationed on the Anglo-Liberian and Franco-Liberian Frontier.

The Force is employed in maintaining peace and order; in preventing incursions and raids by natives of Liberia into the territories of neighbouring States; in suppressing intertribal feuds; in keeping roads open to trade and travel, and in enforcing such laws and regulations as are now or may hereafter be passed relative to the aboriginal population. The said Force is also utilised in scientific and economic service, such as the mapping of the interior, etc.

With the exception of some defined cases, no person is eligible to serve in the Frontier Force, nor is to be employed therein, or be in any wise attached thereto, who is not a citizen or native of Liberia.

Citizens and natives of Liberia enlist for a term of five consecutive years; foreign officers enlist for a term of two consecutive years.

The Frontier Force consists of three hundred men and is organised in six companies, each consisting of fifty men of all arms. Each company has a lieutenant and four non-commissioned officers, who are citizens of Liberia. Four of the said companies are stationed on the Franco-Liberian Frontier. The Force acts in concert when necessary.

Its strength is 37 officers, 7 cadets and 700 other ranks

C. RECRUITING SYSTEM

Military service is voluntary, but becomes compulsory in time of war; in that case all male citizens between the ages of sixteen and fifty are liable to military service.

D. EFFECTIVES

The total effectives of the army in peace time are 6,386 men.
II.

Budget Expenditure on National Defence.

The expenditure of the Ministry of War amounted to $126,070.53 in 1928.