COLOMBIA

Area ........................................... 1,150,000 sq. km.
Population (xi. 1928) .................... 7,851,000
Density per sq. km. ....................... 6.8

I. Army.

ORGANISATION AND COMPOSITION OF THE ARMY

The armed forces of Colombia comprise the land army, the military air force and the navy 1. They are under the control of the Ministry of War.

The Colombian army is divided among the five military areas of which the territory consists, and which correspond to the five divisions constituting the army.

The composition of each division varies; it is made up of different arms and services.

The total strength is:
16 infantry battalions (including the Guard of Honour);
4 artillery batteries;
5 cavalry squadrons;
1 engineer battalion;
3 battalions of railway sappers;
1 aviation platoon;
1 medical company.

RECRUITING SYSTEM AND PERIOD OF SERVICE

Military service is compulsory; it begins at the age of 21 and terminates at 45. The total period of military service is thus 24 years. The period of military service with the colours is one year.

The Colombian army comprises:

The first-line army;
The national guard;
The territorial guard.

1 Three gunboats (1,443 tons) and 10 miscellaneous units (motor-launches, coast-guard vessels, etc.).
The period of military service in the first-line army is 10 years (from 21 to 30); it is also 10 years (from 31 to 40) in the national guard and 4 years (41 to 45) in the territorial guard. All military obligations cease at the age of 45.

Recruiting is effected by drawing lots each year. Recruits who do not perform active service, but who nevertheless form part of the first-line army, the national guard or the territorial guard, constitute the reserve of each of the above groups. Reservists are divided into two classes: the first class consists of those who have received full military training; the others belong to the second class.

Reservists may be called up in time of peace for periods of training, exercises and manoeuvres.

In addition to conscripts the army includes volunteers. Voluntary engagements are only permitted in so far as the number of conscripts enrolled is not sufficient to provide the regular number of effectives.

**BUDGETARY EFFECTIVES**

(1930.)

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<th></th>
<th>1925</th>
<th>1926</th>
<th>1927</th>
<th>1928</th>
<th>1929</th>
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</table>

**II. Budget Expenditure on National Defence.**

Notes. — 1. The expenditure of the War Department includes that on coast-guard vessels and river gunboats.

2. The above figures include pensions amounting to 0.2 million pesos in 1927 and in 1928 and estimated at 0.3 million for 1929.