COSTA RICA

Area .... 60,000 sq. km.
Population (XII. 1936) .... 565,000
Density per sq. km. .... 9.9
Length of railway system (1930) (excluding some industrial lines) .... 555 km.

I. Army.

The President of the Republic is the supreme head of the army. The Department of Public Security, which comprises an army section, a military police section, a navy section, etc., is under the direction of a Secretary of State. There is also a Commander-in-Chief, a local commandant, an infantry instructor and a cavalry instructor.

A Directorate General of Aeronautics, attached to the Office of the Secretary of State for Public Security, was created in November 1929; it regulates and supervises air traffic and all matters relating to the commercial and military air services.

The regular army of Costa Rica consists of infantry and artillery. The effectives of the regular army for 1936 are 56 officers and 279 other ranks; the corresponding figures for 1937 are 59 and 280.

The maximum strength of the armed force which the Executive may keep with the colours in time of peace has been fixed for the year 1937 at 500 men.

This force may be increased to 5,000 men in the event of internal disturbances, and in case of foreign war to whatever strength the Executive may consider necessary.

The total number of men enrolled is 50,485, of whom 37,280 belong to the active army. The latter consists of 33 battalions, which may be mobilised in case of necessity.

Police Forces.

Military Police.

The Department of Military Police and the Corps of Investigation Officers are part of the Department of Public Security. The budgetary effectives of the military police for 1936 are 444 officers and other ranks; the corresponding figure for 1937 is 443.
There are, in addition, a *provincial police force* (strength in 1936 and 1937: 336 and 341 officers and men), a *Customs Guard* (strength in 1936 and 1937: 113 and 116 inspectors and guards), a *Revenue Guard* (strength in 1936 and 1937: 257 and 279 inspectors and guards) and a *Prison Guard* (strength in 1937: 180 officers, N.C.O.s and men).

The provincial police come under the Department of Public Security, the Customs and Revenue Guards under the Department of Finance and Trade.

**Recruiting.**

All citizens of Costa Rica between the ages of 18 and 50 are liable for military service.

The army is divided into two parts: the active army and the reserve. The former includes all men between 18 and 40, the latter men between 40 and 50.

There is also a national guard consisting of men between 50 and 60 years.

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

The budget year coincides with the calendar year.

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<th>1931</th>
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**Department of Public Security**

Notes.—1. Expenditure under the Department of Public Security as given above covers the army, the police force, military bands, the marine and penitentiaries.

2. Expenditure on the marine, included above, entirely for civil purposes, amounted to 0.04, 0.03 and 0.02 million colones for 1933, 1934 and 1935.

3. Expenditure for military pensions is charged, jointly with civil pensions, to the Department of Finance.