

H.R.H. THE MAHARAJA OF KASHMIR

H.R.H. The Maharaja of Kashmir, one of India's two representatives at the War Cabinet, arrived in London this morning.

Kashmir is one of the leading Indian States and occupies an important strategical position on the North West frontier. Its ruler, Lieut.-General His Highness Maharaja Sir Hari Singh Bahadur, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., K.C.V.O., A.D.C., has been among the most generous of India's contributors to the war effort.

Born in September 1895, he succeeded to the gadi in September 1925. At the outbreak of war the Maharaja unhesitatingly placed his general services and the resources of his State at the disposal of the Crown. Four battalions of State troops and a Brigade signal section are now serving with the Crown Forces. In addition the 1st and 2nd Kashmir Mountain Batteries left the State to serve with the Indian Army, the 1st Battery fighting with distinction in Abyssinia. Apart from additional recruits to the State forces, Kashmir has provided 36,000 recruits to the Indian Army. On the economic side, the vast timber resources of the State have been put to war uses; and the whole available supply of walnut from Kashmir's forests earmarked for rifles. The silk industry has also been turned over to war work, concentrating on parachute material.

The Maharaja takes a great personal interest in his excellent State forces, and in October 1941 visited the Middle East and saw his 1st Mountain Battery on active service.

Personal gifts made to the Allied forces by the Maharaja include 18 ambulances and his Lockheed aircraft, and contributions towards the State's war funds collections.

Within the State the Maharani has given outstanding service to the war effort. She has encouraged work parties to produce large consignments of Red Cross comforts for the Forces and Women's Voluntary Services to collect for war funds and to give assistance to Allied troops visiting Kashmir on leave or convalescence.

INDIA OFFICE