

BRAVES IRP "SUFFS"

Gov Lister. Act. ... nington, Calls "Unladylike."

WERE HURASSING EXECUTIVES

Women At Annapolis Wanted Signatures To Impress Senators — Secretary Lane Also Importuned.

Annapolis, Md., Dec. 18.—If Gov. Ernest Lister, of Washington, has any cyclone collars in his State he had better seek reservation in them when some of the members of the National Woman's Party start on a campaign for his political scalp.

The Governor, who is one of the most affable and courteous of men, and one of the most brilliant of the executives in session here, had a verbal tilt in the State House this afternoon with some of the members of the suffrage organization referred to. What the Governor said to these women did not make the love-lights shine in their eyes. He told them that he thought their conduct in "hurassing the Governors by trying to get them to sign petitions was exceedingly unladylike" and that he personally thought that "there were more important things to be done at the conference than that of signing such petitions."

The women did not like this one bit. They told the Governor so, and after he had disappeared from their midst they made it plain in their denunciations of his attitude that they would see to it that the women folks of Washington and the other women in the country would know of "the Governor's insulting conduct." That is the way they put it.

Not Concerned Over Threat.

The Governor said this afternoon that the women could do as they pleased. He declared that he had been elected Governor of Washington twice, that he believed the women of his State had helped him greatly in both elections; that he was sincerely grateful to them, that he was an ardent believer in woman suffrage and that he felt that if his administration was pleasing to the women over whom he presided as State Executive that was all he need care for. The opinion of outside women who didn't know him, averred the Governor, would not cause him any loss of sleep.

The tilt between the Governor and the suffrage delegates occurred at the entrance to the Senate chamber. For several days past delegates who had attended the Convention of the National Women's Party in Washington have been trying to get the Governors to give them written indorsements of the woman suffrage movement. They wanted to use these indorsements in their campaign to win enough votes in the United States Senate to insure the passage of the amendment to the Constitution granting nation-wide suffrage.

Some of the Governors have given these indorsements, while others most suavely declined. Several times Governor Lister had been approached, but he declared that his attitude on suffrage was so generally known that such petitions were not necessary and that he thought they were out of place at "his time." This afternoon he was hurrying to keep an important engagement when he was again stopped. He again declined and one or two of the women began to upbraid him in no gentle terms. It was then that Governor Lister expressed his opinion about their hurassing the Governors and their "unladylike conduct." He didn't quibble, but talked straight from the shoulder.

Were After Lane.

A few minutes before, after Secretary Lane had finished his speech praising the work of the women in war, the suffragettes sent him a note demanding why he had not spoken in the course of his speech in behalf of equal rights. Governor Lister had witnessed the incident and had learned the contents of the note and was resentful of the attitude assumed by the women in regard to Mr. Lane.

The note to the Secretary read as follows:

"*Mr. Secretary:* You spoke of the service rendered by women in the great war and urged them not to relax their energy during the period of reconstruction. You said nothing of the need of political freedom for 'these servants of democracy' women. You emphasized the need of democracy for European subject peoples and said nothing about rendering justice to our subject people—women. Will you urge nation-wide liberty for them now?"

The note was signed by delegates from New Jersey, Connecticut, Oregon, California, Michigan, Nebraska and Maryland.