

Tallahassee Fla April 10-23.

Mr. John S. Jones
Columbus
Ohio.

Dear Mr. Jones:-

Your wire 7th, and letter of same date received, in which you confirmed wire, and enclosed copy letter to Mr. Brorien which was certainly a good one, and Mr. Garber's memos. on reasons why Naples should be County-seat, be a feeder to Fort Myers, etc, etc, all of which is in line of my thought that the county will surely be created and that "our job" is to secure county seat at Naples ~~AND~~ or know that with a referendum for its location that we control voting strength sufficient to warrant this (my visit to Caxambas and Marco developed that these people were of the belief that Naples was fighting against any County and this was the SOLE AND ONLY reason that they signed a petition for county seat to be at Everglade, BUT when it comes to voting on the question I feel assured that there will be few votes in the new County out side of Everglade and Chokoloskee--these two points have only eighteen votes- that will vote against Naples, our enquiry of the voters just east of Bonito Springs whom we canvassed were also for Naples--these enquiries made before we ~~LEFT~~ came up) I think it well to try and keep Immokalee OUT as they might vote for Everglade but it is in my personal opinion not at all likely, Mr. Crayton seems to feel that THEY MIGHT OUT VOTE US---for the life of me I dont see how they can--the present registration shows--Marco-32, Immokalee 33, Everglade 18, Bonito-Springs 63, (and Bonito Springs will surely be thrown in the new county), Naples 77, Caxambas 37, So a referendum vote on location of County seat would certainly be in favor of Naples, our fight seems to me to be PREVENTING THEM FROM NAMING EVERGLADE for any FIXED PERIOD, and securing a provision that a vote will be had within ninety days (or some fixed time) after the passage of the Act,

Our next job (really the first is to see that Bonito Springs is put in the new County, and if possible that Immokalee is left out (on account of votes).

The next thing is that the Bill does not FIX debt in ~~KE~~ the shape of "Time warrants" for any PARTICULAR PURPOSE but that a modest amount of Time warrants be allowed, and that the citizenship VOTE BONDS for main arterial Highways etc.

I am sure that Governor Hardee cannot select a "very bad" set of County officers if he chooses them from the several sections of the County, hence I can see but little to fear, and personally I do not think we should put ourselves in the attitude of trying to defeat the creation, our concern should be to ASSURE creation, but safeguard ourselves as outlined above.

With these thoughts in view I have prepared a "Brief" as per enclosed copy, and these are the arguments I think we should use to the Legislature in the matter of the creation of the County, and we should use Mr. Garber's "breif" to the citizens of Fort Myers to AID US IN THE CREATION and presenting these views.

I brought Bozeman up with me and have had him and another man in the Comptroller's office compiling facts from the Lee County Tax Book of 1922, am enclosing the skeleton of the figures we will have, also wired Mr. Crayton to secure from the Records at Fort Myers certificates as to MORTGAGES recorded against the lands purchased by Mr. Collier, also the boundaries of Special School Districts so that the lines will not "split" any of them (this in my opinion will enable us to HOLD BONITO SPRINGS IN and Keep Immokalee OUT, by refering to map sent you will see the sense of the argument, and it will certainly have weight with Legislature and we have able members to present same to Committee, I find the "Theory" of a man "OWNING A COUNTY" is not at all popular here.

Mr. Henderson Representative from Lee County said he would introduce the Bill monday, and that he would ask that it be refered to Committee, and that a date would be fixed for hearing, hence I so wired you Saturday, he has delayed getting the Bill in, in hopes no doubt that we will disagree on a fixed policy and thus "mix us all up" in such a manner that we will make a poor showing with Committee---some fighting to stay in, some fighting to stay out, Fort Myers trying to defeat, but he Senator Malone and their friends "standing by the Bill as written, I am writing thus fully so that you can instruct a definate policy and lets all work to that end.

I think Mr. Garber should come as quickly as possible, no real rush, for we can have hearing delayed on account of his illness if it is set before he can reach here, but I think we should "go to the bat" with them just as quickly as possible.

Am sending you some Kodak views of our "Bay trip" also a set of views of Naples which I am showing around to various members of the Legislature.

Feel confident that if you instruct us to proceed as above that we can win.

Personal regards to you and yours.

Sincerely yours

J. F. Jaudon.