

James Franklin Jaudon
INVESTMENTS

OFFICES

Fort Myers, Fla. — Miami, Fla.

Tallahassee Florida April 5th 1923

Mr. John S. Jones
Columbus
Ohio.

Dear Mr. Jones:-

Answering yours of second instant, (which only reached me to day, as it was mis-sent to Jacksonville,) and wiring you as per confirmation enclosed.

Collier County will certainly be created at this session of the legislature, Representative Henderson of Lee County and Senator Malone of the District in which the new county is, and will be a part is out openly and very strongly supporting the measure and will respectively introduce the bill creating the county in House and Senate, thus insuring its passage, BUT not necessarily defeating amendments which we put before the House committee on County Organization meeting your desires and views, we have the positive assurance that the Bill will be referred to committee and that we will be given a hearing.

There are but three issues, location of county-seat, boundaries, and naming officers for appointment.

BOUNDARIES,--I am enclosing a rough sketch of the boundaries as Representative Henderson for the Collier interest will introduce it, note that Bonito Springs is not included, but as they have made the lines it will split a Special School District in half part of same would be left in Lee and part go into the new County (the purpose of this is evidently to leave out these voters as they will most certainly vote for Naples), I am sure the Committee on County Organization will straighten this line,--thus giving us the majority of votes, in this connection let me say they have imposed on the proposed lines of Henry County and thus will give to Collier County more area and valuation than we could have possibly secured.

COUNTY SEAT,--The law requires that some point be named in a Bill creating a County as a temporary county-seat and it must be done

I am sure that we can and will get written in the bill "That the County of Collier will be operative as of October first 1923 etc, etc, that WITHIN SIXTY DAYS FROM THE PASSAGE OF THE ACT CREATING THE COUNTY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEE COUNTY SHALL CALL AN ELECTION TO BE PARTICIPATED IN BY THE DULY QUALIFIED ELECTORS WITHIN THE CONFINES OF THE COUNTY TO BE CREATED, TO DETERMINE WHERE THE TEMPORARY COUNTY SHALL BE LOCATED, I am equally sure that NAPLES CAN AND WILL RECEIVE THE GREATEST NUMBER OF VOTES, thus when the County is organized on October first it will be at NAPLES, hence it would make no difference what location was named in the Bill.

OFFICERS,-- Judge Randell of Fort Myers one of the attorneys employed by Mr.Crayton is the brother-in-law of Governor Hardee, and he is assured that we can name as many officers as Collier, BUT that he will not be bound to appoint any particular men or women, and WILL appoint only such officers as he thinks will administer the affairs of the new county fairly and squarely, naturally he will distribute the Board of County Commissioners in five different sections of the County, and the School Board in three sections of the county, so you can readily understand that with Bonito-Springs, and Imokalee in that we will have the best of the appointments regardless of Collier.

They will inject into the bill no doubt features of issuing time warrants providing funds for roads, (they cannot Bond the new County by Legislation, as this can only be done by a vote of the people), just what these provisions will be I cannot say as none of us will see their Bill until it is introduced, but if these time warrants provide for the construction or completion of Tamiami Trail and roads, and as this money can only be spent under the direction of THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, there would be no harm in this feature, but rather the contrary, as this is just what we would desire.

The new Board of County Commissioners are the only ones who can call an election for BONDS and this cannot be done until after the County is organized, and must be submitted to a vote of the people, AND WE WILL HAVE A MAJORITY OF THE VOTES ALONG THE COAST.

I shall not attempt to tell you what we have done, but the above is the status at this time, I am sure with Mr. Garber here we can "fight" along these lines and win, and win far more than if Mr. Collier had not injected himself into County Division, for we have right, common sense and justice on our side in addition we have and can maintain a majority of the voters of the new county.

Noted carefully all you said relative to Railway matter, and in accordance with your desires I shall keep this information to myself, and shall be most happy to have a visit from Mr. Allen W. Jones President of the East and West Coast Railway, in this connection let me say that Mr. Collier is very secure in his confidence and acquaintanceship with Mr. Delano.

Hope that Mr Garber will be with us not later than Monday and you can rest assured that we are doing our best, but as I said in my opening paragraph, THIS COUNTY WILL BE CREATED, with or without our help or opposition, the only thing that could possibly prevent this is that the Legislature would REFUSE TO CREATE ANY COUNTIES at this Session, which is not at all likely as both the Representative, and Senator are in favor of the measure

With highest personal regards to You and yours.

most faithfully yours