

STRONG FIGHT ON NEW COUNTY

Will Object to Taking Section From St. Lucie and Other Counties.

(Special to The Herald).

Fort Pierce, April 8.—Sentiment in St. Lucie county is overwhelmingly opposed to division for the proposed new county of Okeechobee.

Petitions protesting against the proposition and urging that the question be submitted to the referendum vote of the electors of the county have already been signed by approximately 600 voters, citizens and taxpayers, and the petitions are still in circulation.

The new county advocates would cut twelve townships off the west side of St. Lucie county—nearly one-third the total area of the county, leaving St. Lucie entirely too small for the best interests of the citizens and taxpayers.

The new county, as now proposed, would be over twice the area of St. Lucie after division. It is considered that formation of the new county would greatly increase the taxation in both St. Lucie and the new county, the territory of the latter being extremely sparsely populated.

The movement for formation of a new county is regarded by many as being chiefly an effort on the part of a few leaders to secure political jobs.

The movement will be fought to a finish by the people of St. Lucie county, and preparations are being made to send a strong delegation to Tallahassee to protest against partition or to have the question referred to the electors.

It is understood here that Osceola, DeSoto and Palm Beach, from each of which it is proposed to cut off a slice, will also put up a strong fight against the proposition.