

petition, these names cannot be counted, because this similar petition is not the one actually signed. This is so even when what was done was done with the intention of consolidating several similar petitions and without fraud.

What was done here was this. A large number of separate petitions were circulated—these are attached and have been treated as one. Some names appear on pages of paper pasted at the foot of some of these petitions. It is said that these, when signed, were not attached. A number of signatories have made affidavits that they authorised the attaching of the pages they signed.

If all the names appearing on these added pages are disallowed, the remaining names are enough.

What is contended is, that the addition of these pages without heading was not only ineffectual to make the names appearing thereon signatures to the petition, but to destroy the actual signatures that were duly appended to the petitions. This clearly is not so. Had a name been forged, it would not invalidate all the signatures. It is not the case of a joint promissory note, not to be operative till signed by certain persons. Each petitioner gave those circulating the petition the right to obtain as many further signatures as they could.

Then it is said that this petition does not comply with the statute, because it requires "a petition," and not a number of petitions; and it is pointed out that there is some verbal discrepancy between the documents, e.g., one says "Stratford" and another "The City of Stratford."

The Interpretation Act makes the singular include the plural; and all that is necessary is, that, before the 1st November, ten per cent. of the ratepayers should in writing signify their desire to have such legislation submitted.

Before dealing with the other objections, it is convenient to give the figures.

The applicant says there are 3,783 voters. Ten per cent. would be 379 petitioners necessary. There were on the petition in all 518. So he must successfully attack 139. He says there are on

the petition not qualified.....	83
on the added sheets	32
withdrawals	32
on page 15 of petition.....	17
on page 40 of petition	13

(both attacked on special grounds) 177 in all.