7-12-06
8-5-07
20-5-07
18-8-08
11-1-10
3-8-14
31-3-20

Local & Munl. (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 2701 M.

DATED 4-12-97

INDEXED.

DESPATCHED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Munl. Commrs.

Ordering with remarks, that the election of Mr. F. W. Pragasa Mudaliyar as a Munl. Commr. for the 1st Division of the Madras Munty for the 1st Division be notified.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

[6]
200—8-97.

Papers to be read in Proceedings:—

Again G.O., No. , dated 189 .

Current No. 3881. M. of 1897, dated 8th November 1897. from the President M. C. Mad.
Current No. 3882. M. of 1897, dated 6th November 1897. from ~~the~~ certain voters of the Tiruvallur Municipal Ward Madras.
Current No. 3907. M. of 1897, dated 10th November 1897. from the President M. C. Mad.

Misc Order. no. 2791 M Mis 4.12.97

The Government agrees with the President in considering that the objection raised by the petitioner against the validity of the election of M. Rey. Ragasa Mudaliyar on the ground that intimidation was practised at the election, has not been substantiated. The petition of objection is accordingly rejected and the name of the successful candidate will be published in the Fort Saint George Gazette.

2. It is however observed that the conduct of the election was marked by much confusion which the President should take steps to prevent on future occasions by appointing persons of more authority as polling officers.

(From orders)

To
The President M. C. Madras.
Gazetted 7/12/97 V&P. 7/12/97

V.R.
4/12/97

H. T.
4. 12. 97.

NOTIFICATION.

UNDER Section 8 of the City of Madras Municipal Act I of 1884, the undermentioned gentlemen have been duly elected Municipal Commissioners of the Municipality of Madras:—

I Division

Dr R Rey. R. N. Bhagava Mudaliyar Avargal

C. No. 3881-M

GAZETTE—Part I-A.

2701

Local & Munl. (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 3884 M

H.M.
Misc
Order

From

THE PRESIDENT,
Municipal Commission,
Madras.

SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
LOCAL & MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT
NOV 1897

G. No. 339

Dated 8th November 1897

Received 10-11-97

Registered

Enclosures 3.

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Forwarding objection Petition on the Election held on 30th October 1897 for the Division with remarks together with other papers.

The Government agrees with the President in considering that the objection raised by the petitioner against the validity of the election of M.R.Ry Pragasa Mudaliyar on the ground that intimidation was practised at the election, has not been substantiated. The petition of objection is accordingly rejected and the name of the successful Candidate will be published in the Fort St. George Gazette.

P.R. H.M. for orders.
11/12/97 I cannot see that any intimidation has been proved, in the case of any voter, though Tiagaraya Chetty (agent to the successful candidate) sent a threatening message to an absent voter, & otherwise behaved badly.

To The President, Madras Municipality
Gazette 4/12/97 I don't see that ✕

13/11 W.T. 2.12.97

* there was an intimidation, the station may therefore be enjoined; but the conduct of the station seems to have been marked by much confusion which the Resident should take steps to prevent on future such occasions by appt persons of more authority as Polling officers

BS
3/12/97

BACK PAPERS

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Genl. Dept.
13.

MUNICIPALITY OF MADRAS.

G. No. 339

General Department.

Madras, 8 November 1897.

From

LIEUT.-COL. SIR GEORGE MOORE, KT., C. I. E.,

President, Municipal Commission.

LOCAL & MUNICIPAL DEPT
RECEIVED
3881/M

To

The Secretary to Government,

Local and Municipal Department,

Fort St.George.

SIR,

Enclosures 3

In forwarding the accompanying petition submitted by Mr G. Parameswaram Pillai, a candidate for the vacant Commissionership in the 1st Division at the election held on the 30th October 1897, I have the honour to submit as follows:-

2. Under the provision of Rule 19 of the Rules for the conduct of election, I enquired into the matter. The evidence taken is also submitted for information.

3. Mr Parameswaram Pillai confined his objection to the question of intimidation - the irregularities he complained of have no bearing on the validity of the election and will be disposed of by me.

4. As to the question of intimidation it appears to me that the only points at issue are the removal of a voter who had come to vote for Mr Parameswaram Pillai to a verandah and inducing him to vote for Mr Pragasa Mudaliar- The remark made concerning an absent Toddy-Drawer.

5. As to the removal of the voter I do not think it amounts to intimidation. It is stated in evidence that the party went outside of his own accord to consult his relations. It is admitted on both sides that this occurred outside the Polling room.

6. The procedure may have been questionable, but I do not think illegal.

7. With regard to the remark as to the absent Toddy-Drawer, it is not clear who made it. Mr Theagaroya Chetty (junior) - the accredited agent for Mr Pragasa Mudaliar - states that it was his brother. Whoever made the remark, I do not think it amounts to intimidation as defined in the Penal Code Section 503. The rules under which the elections are held amount to law and therefore the legal interpretation of intimidation should be taken. There was no threat of harm to body, property or reputation. There was merely the exercise of an individual's right to say who should enter his garden.

8. Under these circumstances, I do not think that Mr Parameswaram Pillai has established his plea of intimidation.

9. The result of the election in question is herewith forwarded in the form prescribed in G.O.No. 190 M.Mis. dated 14th February 1893.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Lt.-Col.

President, Munl.Commn.

Petition referred to

The "Madras Standard" Office,

Madras, 2nd November 1897.

'TO

The President,

Madras Municipal Commission.

Sir,

I beg to bring to your notice that several serious irregularities were practised at the Municipal Election which was held in the First Division, last Saturday.

2. According to Rule No.7 of the "Amended rules for the conduct of elections in Madras Municipality", notified by His Excellency the Governor in Council on December 17, 1895, the duty of polling officers appointed by the President of the Municipality is said to be "to see that the votes are recorded with absolute secrecy, that only electors and persons desirous of lodging objections to voters are admitted into the polling rooms and that persons who have recorded their votes or whose objections have been heard and disposed of leave immediately".

3. This rule was violated in every detail. In the first place, secrecy was not observed in all instances as regards the voting. Mr Ramanuja Chariar, one of the Polling Officers, questioned several voters publicly and to the hearing of all present whom among the candidates they had come to vote for and in at least two instances, himself made marks against the names of candidates which the voters alone had the right to do. This will be admitted by Mr Ramanuja Chariar, himself, by Mr Waples the other Polling Officer and by several gentlemen who were present at the polling place at the time.

4. In the next place, besides "electors and persons desirous of lodging objections to voters", several men were admitted into the polling room, conspicuous among those who entered the room very frequently with a view to influence voters were Mr P.Theagaroya Chetty, senior and Mr Theagaroya

Chetty

Chetty, junior. Both of them were permitted to ask the voters when near the ballot box and about to vote, whom they had come to vote for and in one instance Mr Theagaroya Chetty, junior made a mark against the name of Mr Pragasa Mudaliar on behalf of another voter. Further, friends and dependants of the brothers, Theagaroya Chetty, were permitted to mark off the name of Mr Pragasa Mudaliar on behalf of other voters in their presence. To mention an instance Verappa Chetty was allowed to vote for Nilamakam Chetty (No.204 in the list of voters).

5. In the third place, persons who had recorded their votes did not leave the polling room immediately. Some of them remained in the room after their business was over.

6. Again, according to rule 7 each candidate is permitted to"have one Agent present at the polling room during the election to watch his interests". Mr Theagaroya Chetty junior, was nominated by Mr Pragasa Mudaliar as his agent. As agent, his duty was merely to <u>watch</u> the interests of Mr Pragasa Mudaliar. But Mr Theagaroya Chetty completely overstepped the duties of an agent. He behaved throughout the day not merely as if he were a person of some authority at the polling office but as a supervising officer who had some sort of control over the polling officers. He posted himself at the entrance to the polling room and whenever a voter put in his appearance, he asked for his name in an authoritative tone, made a note of it in his book, caused the man to sit outside or wait just as it pleased Mr Theagaroya chetty and let him in when it pleased him giving him directions to go to one side of the room or the other. As the man entered the room, Mr Theagaroya Chetty showed a card containing the names of the two candidates and asked him to make a mark, or to use his own expression, "tick off" against the first name, the first name being that of Mr Pragasa Mudaliar. Further, after the balloting was over, when the boxes were about to be sealed, Mr Theagaroya Chetty insisted on the polling officers' counting the number of blank cards they had with

them

them which he had no authority to do either as agent or as a Municipal Commissioner and which you alone as President, had the right to do. It was because I know that Mr Theagaroya Chetty was actively canvassing votes for Mr Pragasa Mudaliar and I apprehended that if he were allowed to enter the polling room he might bring his influence to bear on the voters, that I addressed you a latter long before the day of election requesting you not to nominate Mr Theagaroya Chetty as the Supervising Officer at the poll but any other Commissioner of any other Division in the City. But Mr Theagaroya Chetty sought and succeeded in obtaining admission into the polling room, in the capacity of an agent and behaved as if he were a man of some authority at the place.

7. Both Mr Theagaroya Chetty senior and junie Mr Theagaroya Chetty junior coerced several persons who had gone to the polling place with the intention of voting for me to vote for Mr Pragasa Mudaliar. By posting themselves at the two entrances of the polling room, within sight of and not far from the voters they prevailed upon several of them by voice and gesture to vote for Mr Pragasa Mudaliar. In one instance, a voter who had come to vote for me with a paper in his hand containing my name to avoid any mistake and who when questioned by Mr Theagaroya Chetty senior as to whom he was going to vote for, mentioned my name, was removed by physical force from the place where he was seated and taken to another portion of the building and surrendered to a party of Mr Theagaroya Chetty's followers so that they may tutor him properly and prevail upon hi to change his mind before he is ushered into the polling room. In another instance Mr Theagaroya Chetty, junior was heard to say with reference to a voter (a toddy drawer) who either show some disinclination to go to the polling place, or an inclination to vote for me "Let him beware, He shall not enter my garden again". Some voters were also thrust into the room through the passage by which voters were required to quit the room after they had finished voting. Several of the voters in

the

Evidence referred to

the First Division are illiterate men and not a few of them have been intimidated in these and other ways by Messrs Theagaroya Chetty to give their vote for Mr Pragasa Mudaliar.

8. On the above grounds, I question the validity of the election held last Saturday in the First Division and request you in communication with Government to cancel it and order a fresh election.

Yours faithfully,

(Sd) G. Parameswaram Pillai.

P.S.

I have already addressed you a separate letter this morning with reference to certain voters who are under the rules not qualified to vote.

(Intld) G.P.P.

1/3881 Mob 1877

Evidence referred to

Somasundrum Pillay - Agent to Mr Parameswaram Pillay at the election held on the 30th states - I was acting Agent for Mr Parameswaram Pillay at the election held on the 30th October at the Police Station Tondiarpett. A voter came and was about to enter the polling room by the entrance; he had a paper in his hand with the name of Mr Parameswaram Pillay printed on it - He was questioned by some people outside who he was going to vote for; I heard this but do not know who they were. He showed the paper and answered Parameswaram Pillay ; then some people belonging to the other party caught hold of him by the hands and dragged him out of the station. Mr Parameswaram Pillay remarked to both the Theagaroya Chettys that it is not right to do so. The elder Mr Theagaroya Chetty said no, he has some friends there, he wants to consult them - I do not know whether he came back or not. I do not know his name. I saw the paper in his hand and heard him mention Mr Parameswaram Pillay's name.

Another voter came to vote; Mr Theagaroya Chetty junior asked him who he wanted to vote for - He said Parameswaram Moodelliar. Then Mr Theagaroya Chetty said oh Pragasa Moodelliar you want - Mr Theagaroya Chetty junior had taken the card from the man and when he said Parameswaram Moodelliar he ticked it off against the name of Pragasa Moodelliar. I at once asked him that is not right - Then Mr Theagaroya Chetty asked him do you want a Pillay or Moodelliar. He answered Moodelliar. Then at once I put the question do you want Parameswaram or Pragasa. He said Parameswaram. Then Mr Theagaroya Chetty said he is confused he really means Pragasa Moodelliar. I said no, it is not right - Then Mr Parameswaram Pillay and Sivangnana Moodelliar came in to see what was the matter - They asked me be quiet; we shall see afterwards - Mr Theagaroya Chetty gave the card to the voter and he dropped it into the box.

Four blind men were brought in to vote and were assisted by some one. In two cases I was told they were their sons. In the other two cases I saw Mr Tyappa Chetty take the men in - I was told that Mr Tyappa Chettiar is the uncle of Mr Theagaroya Chetty.

In some other cases some ~~some~~ illiterate men came and the polling officer Mr Ramanuja Chary asked them openly who they were going to vote - When they replied, he at once ticked the card and handed it back and asked him to drop it in the box ; in some cases voters were thurst in by Mr Theagaroya Chetty and his party through the doorway meant for the exit, while there were voters coming in at the proper entrance and there was confusion.

In the case of some Toddy Drawers, one who came to vote was told by one of the Chettiars that if another man does not come and vote, let him beware that he shall not enter into my garden to-morrow.

In the evening Mr Theagaroya Chetty insisted upon the Polling officers counting the remaining cards because one of his relatives outside made a row to the effect that some cards had been dropped into the box by the Polling Officer.

I was told as Agent merely to watch what was going on inside - Mr Theagaroya Chetty made the people understand that he was more than he was there - that is, as a gentleman with some authority for the Polling Officers.

I never spoke to a single voter because I did not know the voters - I never said vote for the second - that is Mr Parameswaram Pillay.

The yellow papers with Mr Parameswaram Pillay's name were distributed to every one who came to vote.

There were some young men outside calling out vote for the second, there were also voices calling vote for the

[illegible] their

first. It was in the morning that Mr Theagaroya Chetty marked the card for the voter.

I asked the Polling officer to note it. He Mr Waples and his Assistant told me we have nothing to do with that-it is your business to lodge a complaint before the President on Monday. I thought it was not my duty to protest about anything to the President that day when he was there.

I was inside all day except when I went for my meals- about half an hour - and when there were no voters I used to sit on the bench in the verandah - Most part of the day Mr Theagaroya Chetty junior spent in the verandah - when voters came he used to come in and told me he came to see whether I spoke to them or not, or whether any tricks were being played or not. It was in the evening that some of the voters went in by exit, about 4 or 5 of them - There was a complaint at once made by some of Mr Parameswaram's people and the Municipal officers asked their peon to be careful not to allow anybody by that entrance. I was standing in the polling room just at the entrance. Outside the entrance there were a lot of people - some of them belonged to Pragasa Moodelliar some of them to Parameswaram Pillay - they blocked the way but voters were still coming in - they were not voters but were standing there to instruct the voters. Mr Theagaroya Chetty junior stood at the proper entrance to the Polling room and let people in just as he liked. There were nearly 6 people in the polling room at one time and they were asked to sit down by the Polling Officers. Only two could vote at the same time so there was no necessity for letting people in by the other entrance - the proper exit - as they could not all vote at once. There was much crowd in the morning and the evening. When the 4 men came in by the proper exit there were no people on the benches - there were 2 at the first box two more came in but as their

to wait and they were standing there.

There must have been a good number always in the room not less than 4 or 5.

Mr Theagaroya Chetty let in a man to vote who had come up after other voters who were waiting. He said the man was suffering from fever.

Mr Sivangnana Moodelliar - I was at the election at the Police Station Tondiarpett on the 30th October I saw the Polling officer Ramanuja Chary asking some of the voters for whom they were voting - I particularly noticed in one instance he asked the voter and he gave the answer Parameswaram Moodelliar he asked him if it was Moodelliar or Pillay the voter replied the first gentleman that came to me. Mr Theagaroya chetty senior said he refers to the first name on the list Pragasa Moodelliar some one ticked the card - not the voter - it was either Ramanuja Chary or Mr Theagaroya Chetty the person who ticked the card dropped it in the box - the voter did not drop it in the box - Mr Theagaroya Chetty junior posted himself at the entrance to the polling room and asked every voter what his name was, marked that name in his own list. He had a card in his hand in which he had two names written, and told the voter to tick off against the first name - Pragasa Moodelliar - He did it in such an authoritative tone that I objected to it some of the voters for Pragasa Moodelliar were let in in preference to the others by Mr Theagaroya Chetty junior. I objected to his doing so - then he said that the voter was suffering from fever in one instance, in another he said the voter had some business to attend - one of the voters who came in Mr Parameswaram Pillay's carriage was made to sit on a bench there - he was forcibly removed by Mr Theagaroya Chetty senior to the other end of the verandah where a f[illegible] of Mr Theagaroya Chetty's relatives were sitting - they were inducing [illegible]

could identify him. I was canvassing for Mr. Parameswaram Pillay.

Neelacunta Row states, I was present at the election on the 30th at the Police Station Tondiarpett in the morning, the Polling officer Mr Ramanuja Chary on two occasions ticked off with his own hand, writing for two voters - He handed the cards back to the voters to be put in the box - In the morning Mr Theagaroya Chetty himself ticked off a card and had it put into the box by the voter. In the evening at intervals - I cannot say how long - Mr Theagaroya Chetty on three occasions took the voters into the Polling room by the way intended for the voters to come out. Mr Theagaroya Chetty junior on one occasion threatened a Toddy Drawer that if the Toddy Drawer - meaning another man - comes and does not vote for me he shall not enter my garden in future. In the forenoon on one occasion Mr Theagaroya Chetty senior took away a voter who was prepared to vote and uttered the name of Mr Parameswaram Pillay and induced him to vote for Mr Pragasa Moodelliar - Mr Theagaroya Chetty junior was standing at the entrance to the polling room and showed a card with the names of the two candidates written on it and asked the voters as they came on to vote for no 1, Mr Pragasa Moodelliar - he also pointed to them the mode of ticking on the card.

I was standing just outside the entrance to the Polling room, sometimes opposite to Mr Theagaroya Chetty, sometimes on the other side. I was welcoming Mr Parameswaram Pillay's voters - I asked them to sit down and go in and vote in their turn and vote for Mr Parameswaram Pillay. Mr Theagaroya Chetty sent the voters in - he did not take them - he took one on each occasion. I had yellow papers printed and distributed them to the voters as they came.

Ranganatha Row , Conicopillay - I was on duty at the election at the Police Station Tondiarpett on the 30th. In two cases Ramanuja Chary - polling officer - asked the voters who they came to vote for, he marked the cards - I dont remember

taken by some parties - I did not actually see
Chetty mark the card.

who put the card in the box - I was sitting in front of Mr Waples not in front of Mr Ramanuja Chary. Mr Theagaroya Chetty senior on behalf of a voter came and ticked a card - The card was dropped by the voter into the box. One Tyappa Chetty came on behalf of another voter and ticked the card. Veerappa chetty also ticked a card for Neelamagam chetty who was an old man.

P.S. Sivangnana Moodelliar brother to Sivangnana Moodelliar states-I was at the election on the 30th at the Tondiarpet Police Station. Twice I saw people being let in by the way intended for exit I made a remark to the Polling officers - they immediately made arrangements not to let any one in that way. Mr Theagaroya Chetty junior was frequently interfering with the voters and whenever he knew that a certain voter would but vote for Mr Parameswaram Pillay he would make a remark - Here is a voter for the other side - and this was followed generally by hissing from his party and a general clapping of hands that tended in a great measure to discourage the voters that came. Mr Theagaroya Chetty junior & senior had a card of their own on which two names were entered, he had a mark against the name of Mr Pragasa Moodelliar and advised the voters to vote like that. A few minutes before 6 a voter was dragged in by Mr Theagaroya Chetty senior, he was made to stand before the Polling Officer Mr Ramanuja Chary - while Mr Theagaroya Chetty stood close by, Ramanuja Chary asked him for whom he was going to vote - keeping a blank card in his - Ramanuja Chary's hand - to which the voter answered some Moodelliar. I did not hear the first part - as soon as he said that Ramanuja Chary ticked against Mr Pragasa Moodelliar's name - soon after I ran for Mr Parameswaram Pillay and reported the matter while he was watching the incident - I was standing on the outside of the entrance and saw Ramanuja Chary tick the card against Pragasa Moodelly I think - Mr Theagaroya Chetty was standing at the entrance to the Polling room the whole time and asking voters to vote for Mr Pragas

Chetty mark the card.

I was asking the voters to vote for Mr Parameswaram Pillay - not all only some - Sometimes very near the door sometimes far off.

Chandra Sekara - Reporter of the Standard - states. I was present at the election on the 30th October at the Police Station Tondiarpet, between 3 & 6 P.M. I heard Mr Ramanuja Chary say to a voter who he came to vote for. I could distinctly see from the entrance Ramanuja Chary's face. Two voters came there to vote. Mr Theagaroya Chetty junior asked them for whom they came to vote. I dont know what they said - he prevented their entering the room, took them to the other side through the entrance which was intended for the exit. I also heard Mr Theagaroya Chetty junior say to a Toddy Drawer, if that Toddy Drawer does not come to vote let him beware that he should not enter my garden to-morrow. Generally when some of the voters come there he forced them to vote for No.1 he told them emphatically thrice or four times - to make a tick for No 1 that is Mr Pragasa Moodelliar.

Mr Waples - I was Polling officer at the election on the 30th at the Police Station, Tondiarpet. A little before noon an old man who could not see came to vote and sat near Ramanuja Chary. Ramanuja Chary asked him who he wanted to vote for - he said he came to vote for Pragasa Moodelliar. Ramanuja Chary ticked Pragasa Mudelliar's name and put the card in the box himself - to this Some objected. Then I suggested to Ramanuja Chary that a third party should come in to vote in such cases. Later on a blind man led by his son came to vote - a paper was given to him and as he was unable to see and not even able to hold the card it was given to his son. The son voted for the father and put the paper into the Ballot box. The old man's name is Naraina Moodelly an Indigo dyer - On this occasion no objection was raised. Another [illegible] Theagaroya came to vote [illegible] card in t[illegible]

taken by some parties - I did not actually see

Chetty mark the card.

Purshotum Moodelliar states - I was present at the election on the 30th at the Police Station Tondiarpet. I saw Mr Theagaroya chetty standing at the entrance to the Polling room - he had a list in his hand and asked every voter as he came in what his name was - ticked it in his book and asked him to go and vote for the first name on the voting card - sometimes he made a number of voters sit down outside and go in one by one - I was canvassing for votes for Mr Parames waram. Mr Dale, Police Sergeant H.Divn. introduced me and another friend M.Ramanjcoloo Naidoo, to some of his East Indian friends - a few had promised their votes to Mr Pragas Moodelliar a few were not so bound and promised to vote for Mr Parameswaram Pillay.

Narasiah states - I was present at the election on 30th at the Tondiarpet Police Station. I heard Mr Ramanuja ask a voter who he was going to vote for - He said, I am to vote for Mr Parameswaram Pillay. Ramanuja Chary showed a card pointing out the place where he ought to mark - t voter put it in the box - Mr Theagaroya Chetty sent some voters into the polling room by the doorway marked, Way O saw Mr Theagaroya Chetty asking the voters to vote for M Pragasa Moodelliar - at the same time Mr Theagaroya Che was getting in near the Ballot boxes. There was not muc at the entrance - there was some - there was sufficien for the voters to get in through the right entrance - two instances - one before 11 and one after 3 - Mr Th Chetty after a rumour had been spread that some cards had been in the box asked the Polling Officer to count the remaining The polling officer counted them -

Ramanuja Chary - Polling Officer - I mark ng they cards for two voters who were unable to attend to nter

a person of

of their incapacity - This I had to do on account of the objections raised in allowing second persons to help - at the commencement illiterate people were allowed to be assisted - this was objected to on the ground that the second persons were either persons interested in one candidate or the other such as to mislead the voters.

As there was considerable confusion outside in the evening I counted the cards myself - I was not asked to count them - but I asked Mr Theagaroya Chetty and Mr Parameswaram Pillay to watch and see that I discharged my duty there and closed my business and sealed the ballot box correctly and well. I saw MR Theagaroya Chetty senior coming and helping a voter - I did not see him mark the card - The voter dropped in himself, I gave the card to the voter.

Mr Theagaroya Chetty junior states I was acting as Agent for Mr Pragasa Moodelliar at the election on the 30th October at the Tondiarpett Police Station. As Agent I knew it was my duty to watch his interests I was his Agent inside the room -. I was there in a double capacity - as Agent and as a voter interested in the election for the 1st Division. I do not think it was inconsistent with my duty to instruct a voter outside - I did not instruct any voter inside the room I did not ask any voter inside the room who he came to vote for - nor did I mark off any voting paper belonging to another - I do not think any one would have misconceived my position during the election - Very many of the voters would understand my double capacity - No one knew that I was Pragasa Moodelliar's Agent, to misconceive. I do not think the number of literate voters in the 1st Division is small compared with that in other Divisions. I do not think that my standing at the gate holding a list of voters in my hand, asking the names of voters as they came in, requesting them to sit outside or asking them to enter the polling room as the occasion required would create an impression in the minds of the voters that I was a person of

some authority in the place, because there was Mr Parameswaram Pillay's Agent also with his bundle of papers standing at the gate on the other side and giving directions as well - I was not standing at the gate as Agent - I only went into the room to see that the other Agent did not meddle with the voters - I gave no instructions to any one inside the room - I am one of the Municipal Commissioners for the Division, like Mr Sivagnana Moodelliar a former Municipal Commissioner for Madras who was there for some time. I do not think my being a Commissioner of the Division and Agent for Mr Pragasa Moodelliar would create an erroneous impression, I did not say with reference to a voter who was not present there that if he did not come and vote he should not enter my garden again. It was my brother who said it. Even if I said it it cannot be intimidation.

I have nothing further to say.

Mr Parameswaram Pillay states he has nothing further to say beyond what he has submitted in his petition.

Statement showing particulars of Election held on 30 October 1897

Name of Municipality	Name of Ward, if any.	Date of Election	No of Registered Voters	No of Voters who exercised the franchise	Names of Candidates	No of votes obtained	Name of Candidate duly elected	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Madras Municipality	1st Division	30 October 1897	386	265	MRRy R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal	154	MRRy R. N. Pragasa Mudaliar Avargal	Re-elected.
					MRRy Govind Parameswaram Pillay avargal	86		

Municipal Office,
Madras,
8 November 1897

G. W. Moore Lt. Col.
President Mun. Coun.

Local & Munl. (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 3935 M

From The President, Municipal Commission, Madras.

Order

R. No. 4374

Dated 11-11-97

Received 13-11-97

Registered 13-11-97

Enclosures

Spare copies.

SUBJECT.

Forwarding petition from the Voters of the First Division praying that the election held on the 30th October 1897 may be cancelled and a fresh election ordered.

17/11

3
3881 Nov 1897

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Rec. 13 Nov. 1897
Secretary to Government
Local & Municipal Department
Fort St. George.

Ref. Letter regarding the election of a Municipal Commissioner for the First Municipal Division held on the 30th October 1897.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith a petition addressed to the President, Municipal Commission, Madras, by the undersigned voters of the First Municipal Division of the City of Madras, praying that the election of a Municipal Commissioner for the said Division held on the 30th October 1897 may be declared void.

2. I have the honour to be, Sir, Your most obedient servant, Sd/- [illegible] 10.11.97

13 NOV 1897 SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT LOCAL & MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT

LOCAL & MUNICIPAL DEPT

3935/h

J. S. Forbes, Esquire,
Secretary to Government,
Local & Municipal Department,
Fort St. George.

Through

The President,
Municipal Commission,
Madras.

Honoured Sir,

We the undersigned voters of the First Municipal Division of the City of Madras, beg to bring to the notice of Government the following few lines regarding the election of a Municipal Commissioner for this Division held on the 30th October 1897 and trust that the Government will be pleased to view our request favourably.

The last election was anything but satisfactory on account of the many irregularities that were practiced. Voters who went to the polling station were obliged for one reason or another to vote for one party or the other whoever had influence over them. No Secrecy was observed in the giving of votes according to the Act and in fact the Municipal Act

Act was violated in the highest degree. Any one and every one in fact, had access into the polling room.

Under the above circumstances we pray that the Government will be pleased to cancel the election held on the 30 October last and order a fresh election.

We beg to remain
Honoured Sir,
Your honours most obedient Servants.

Dated 6 November 1897.

C. Daiva Sikhamoni. Voter no: 362
C Govinthasawmy. Naicker no: 384
R. Muthymatha mayhar
V. Coomarasawmy Pillay
K. Manicka Mud
R Rajarow Pillay
S. Sundrum
B. Muthuvelpillay
Y.S. Syedshaheb
P. Pellappa Chetty
V. Chinnaiyangar
Majappachaiyangar
C. Ruthinum Pillay

Rec: 4374.

Forwarded
11/11/97
W. Wilson Collins
President

V. Krishnaswamy Iyengar
J. L. Ramaiyer Chetty, Talut Registrar, Indra
Daniel Singer.
S. Moonsamy Pandy
Thiagaraja Chetty

Local & Munl. (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 3882 /n

From C. Saiva Siddhanami & other voters of the First Municipal Divn. Madras.

Order

No.

Dated 6-11-97

Received 10-11-97

Registered

Enclosures

Spare copies.

SUBJECT.

Praying that the election held on the 30th October 1897 for filling up a vacancy of a municipal Commissioner in the First Division may be cancelled in the circumstances stated and that a fresh election ordered.

13/11

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Duplicate copy

LOCAL & MUNICIPAL DEPT.
CURRENT No. 3882 /h

To

G. S. Forbes, Esq.,
Secretary to Government
Local and Municipal Department
Fort Saint George.

through The President, Municipal Commission, Madras.

SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT 10 NOV 1897 *LOCAL & MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT*

Honoured Sir,

We the undersigned voters of the Fourth Municipal Division of the City of Madras beg to bring to the notice of Government the following few lines regarding the election of a Municipal Commissioner for this Division held on the 30th October 1897, and trust that the Government will be pleased to view our request favourably.

The last election was anything but satisfactory on account of the many irregularities that were practised. Voters who went to the polling station were obliged for one reason or another to vote for one party or the other, whoever had influence over them. No Secrecy was observed in the giving of votes according to the Act, and in fact the Municipal Act

H.R. 10/11/97

Act was violated in the highest degree
Any one and every one in fact, had
access into the polling room.

Under the above circumstances
we pray that the Government will
be pleased to cancel the election held
on the 31th. October last and order a
fresh election.

We beg to remain,
Honored Sir
Your honour's most obedient Servants.

Dated 6th Nov: 1897

C Dawa Sikkamani Voter no: 362
C Gowri Thasawmy Raicker 384
R. Muthy natha maynar
V. Coomarasawmy Pillay
K. Medinee Naig.
R Rajarow Pillay
A Studdumbay
B. Moodleyar Naig
Y.Y. Syedahmedsaib
P. Yellappaanchary
V. Alwarayangar
Mayappala Aiyangar
C. Kuthumma Pillai
S. Jesudasen No 99.
and ten others

Local & Munl. (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 3907/M

From

THE PRESIDENT,

Municipal Commission,
Madras.

Order

G. No. 340

Dated 10 November 1897

Received 11-11-97

Registered 11-11-97

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Stating that the words "Very many of the Voters would understand my double Capacity" in Mr: Theagaraya Chetty's evidence, should be "Very few of the Voters &c."

13/11

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Genl. Dept.
13.

MUNICIPALITY OF MADRAS.

General Department.

G. No. 340

Madras, 10 November 1897.

3907/K

From

LIEUT.-COL. SIR GEORGE MOORE, KT., C. I. E.,

President, Municipal Commission.

To

The Secretary to Government,

Local and Municipal Department,

Fort St. George.

SIR,

In continuation of my letter No.339, dated 8th November 1897, I have the honor to state that Mr.Theagaroya Chetty has brought to my notice an error in the record of the evidence given by him.

Enclosure.

2. The words "very many of the Voters would understand my double capacity" should be "very few of the Voters &c".

3. This is corroborated by the tenor of the next sentence.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Geo. Moore Lieut.-Col.,

President, Munl. Comn.

...ion given for copying
...ed 12/7/02
...ion examined
...ion signed 6/12

189

...AD AGAIN G.O., No. , DATED
189

...ERENT No.

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...ME OF GOVERNMENT	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	
...ME OF GOVERNMENT.								
...TEMENT WITH DITTO.								
...S NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH IN ORIGINAL.								

N.B.—

A = Copy in full.
B = Not to be copied.
P = Copy abstract only.
Q = Copy heading only.