

taking of evidence really began, and has continued from time to time until the present, the delays occurring in the meantime being occasioned by the inability of counsel to appear when the matter was ready to be proceeded with.

During the Investigation I examined 113 witnesses, many of whom were recalled several times. I also examined thousands of accounts in connection with various contracts with the Board of Education during the years 1906 to 1911, as well as a large number of invoices, cheques, and correspondence of the Department and officials, and also of contractors.

#### CONNELL COAL COMPANY CONTRACTS.

The first matter which was inquired into was that of the Connell Coal Co. The evidence showed that the company had obtained the contract for the supply of a certain number of the schools with their semi-anthracite coal during the years 1907 and 1908, being in those years the lowest tenderer for that kind of coal. In the year 1909 tenders were submitted by the Connell Coal Co., the Crown Coal Co., and Elias Rogers Company, the Elias Rogers tender being the lowest.

Notwithstanding the Rogers Company tender was the lowest by at least 20 cents a ton on the average, amounting on the years sale of coal to the schools of \$1,000 or over, the Property Committee of the School Board recommended awarding the contract to the Connell Coal Co. whereupon Mr. Alfred Rogers strenuously objected, and as a result the Board on the 18th June, 1909 referred the matter back to the Property Committee ordering that a test be made. A test was accordingly arranged for by Mr. C. H. Bishop, Superintendent of the Building Department, and he selected a number of bags from the Connell Coal Co. and a similar number from the Elias Rogers Company stock, after having arranged with Mr. Graham Campbell, Superintendent of the University to have the test carried on in the Physics Building of the University by Engineer Corrigan. The coal selected from the Connell Coal Company's yards and the Elias Rogers yard by Mr. Bishop was taken to a shed at the York St. School, and locked up by Mr. Bishop, and on the following day put into separate bags purchased from the Elias Rogers Company and marked by Mr. Bishop. He also had a number of bags filled at the Wellesley School with Connell