### The Alleged Coal Frauds.

Mayor Howland must be credited with courage to do what he regards as a disagrecable duty. Under this head may be classed the urrest of Patrick Burns, B. McCartuey, T. Johnston, James Granery, and J. H. Venables for conspiracy to defraud the city of Toronto out of \$8,000 for coal, which, it is alleged, Burns was paid but never delivered. John Swanson was also arrested on a like charge, in connection with Burns, in respect of coal paid for but, according to the allegation made, not delivered to the Infantry School. The account books of Mr. Bur as were seized, reliance being put on them to shor the way in which the alleged fraud had covered up. The Mayor suspended Venables, justifiably, we think, considering the complaints previously made against him, during the investigation.

The Mayor consulted no one connected with the Council in this proceeding; but it does not follow that by not doing so, he intended to reflect upon any one. His explanation was that he wished to ensure secrecy, and, by the course taken, he certainly secured that object. If the procedure was unusual, the Mayor, though not escaping criticism, is substantially supported by the Council, which has passed a grant of \$500 to cover the costs of the prosecution, meanwhile. The prosecution proceeded upon statements made by C. H. Symons, a previous bookkeeper of Mr. Burns, against whom a charge of dishoaesty had been made by his employer, and who, rather than stand a trial left the country. Symons, who has doubtless a guarantee of safe conduct, has been brought here as witness; he is present at the examination of the books but is not to meddle with them. The defence professes to be sfraid that the books would be tampered with, and the courts have been asked to other their sucrender, but the question has not yet been decided.

The Mayor states that the makers of the Worthington engine, used in the Toronto Water Works, assert that the engine does not get fair play, and they ask a test to be made that will decide the point, offering to pay the cost provided the result is not to cause a saving to the city. It is difficult to see why, under the circumstances, this test should not, with proper guarantees for fair play, be allowed .- Monetary Times.



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