

BRUELS HEARING CONCLUDED TO-DAY

EVIDENCE WAS NOT WHAT WAS EXPECTED AND THERE SEEMS EVERY LIKELIHOOD THAT THE CHARGES WILL FAIL.

The hearing of the charges preferred last October against Public School Inspector I. D. Bruels by members of the County Council was concluded at the Court House this morning before His Honor Judge Dowsley, of Brockville, the Commissioner appointed by the Government to hold the investigation. Mr J. H. Burrirt, K.C., county solicitor, acted for the County Council, while Mr W. R. White, K. C., was counsel for Mr Bruels. The Observer was not represented at the adjourned hearing this morning, but from what we saw of the proceedings yesterday it seemed that the charges preferred had very little foundation, and certainly the evidence produced did not substantiate them, while in some respects it was so palpably weak that one was led to wonder how such charges ever came to be entered. We are informed that this morning's pro-

ceedings did not strengthen very much the case of the prosecution, and that at the conclusion the Judge intimated that he would likely report that the complainants had largely failed to substantiate the charges. He expressed sympathy with Mr Burrirt in the position in which he was placed and complimented him on his handling of a difficult situation. The great majority of the witnesses failed to stand up to depositions said to have been made to the complainants, and there seems every likelihood that the Inspector will be re-instated in his position by the Department.

the wishes of the trustees and placed in her stead the son of a German minister, and who had no qualifications, also fell pretty flat. Miss Strutt, the teacher, did not return after the holidays, according to Mr R Winters, a trustee, and Mr Meyer took the position, having been sent out by Mr Bruels. They had advertised without receiving any applications. This concluded the evidence in charge number one.

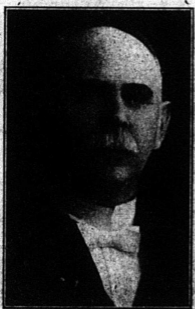
The second charge referred again to Miss Zeroth, it being claimed that the Trustees of S. S. No. 7, Stafford, had been allowed to engage her last January without advertising for a qualified teacher but it was shown by an extract from the regulations that this action was regular.

The third charge was that Mr Bruels had encouraged children of German descent to attend German schools, to the detriment of the Public Schools. This was divided into several clauses, dealing with different schools, but no evidence was produced to show that he had encouraged the practice. That he had tolerated it there was ample evidence, though in one case (No. 5, Alice) when the condition was drawn to his attention by the teacher, Miss Knight, he had reported the case to the Department. Miss Knight told of the children attending Missouri Lutheran and Lutheran schools, but admitted that these children had done well in their examinations. The records kept in the school had not shown the cause of the absence of these pupils. To her Mr Bruels said the children had always been allowed to attend German schools. Rev. Mr Pranschke, pastor in Alice, said the children were taught the German language, and given instruction in religion, reading, literature, composition, spelling, grammar and writing. He had taught similar classes in Canada since 1912. Mr Bruels said he had reported this school to the department, but had no authority to make changes. He had recommended to Rev. Mr Pranschke's predecessor that this instruction be given on Sundays in the churches. He had no report of a truancy officer being appointed for this section. To Mr Burrirt Mr Bruels declared he could not speak German and was not a German.

The Judge's remarks on this charge indicated that he did not consider it proven.

Regarding School No. 3, Alice, Miss Andrews gave an explanation which clearly did not bear out the charge that she had been instructed by Mr Bruels to register pupils attending German schools as being present when they were at these schools, but showed that she had marked them absent, and in her report to the Inspector she had complied with the regulations.

Charge 4 was that Mr Bruels was incapable of marking the papers assigned to him in the entrance ex-



Judge Dowsley, Brockville,

Who presided at hearing of Bruels charges.



Sergt. Roy Pointer

Son of Mrs Pointer, towns, wounded and back on service.

Judge Dowsley in opening the proceedings announced that his commission was not to make make a finding, but simply to hold the investigation and report to the Department. It was agreed that each charge should be taken up and dealt with separately, and when the first clause was called Mr Burrirt announced that he could not substantiate it in the form presented, and, since he could not reconstruct it, he asked that it be withdrawn. This was in connection with Davis' Mills school, Alice, it being claimed that the trustees having advertised for a teacher and received no applications, desired to retain the services of Miss Cahill, but Mr Bruels would not permit it and, removing Miss Cahill, placed Miss Zeroth in the school contrary to the wishes of the trustees. Miss Zeroth's qualifications not being better than Miss Cahill's. The defence were prepared to prove that Miss Cahill left the school because the salary was too small. Section B. of clause one was a somewhat similar case, though into this the question of religion entered, an effort being made to prove that Mr Bruels would not allow Miss Retty, of Westmeath, to go to S. S. No. 7, Stafford, because she was a Roman Catholic. It was brought out by Miss Retty's evidence that she was a Methodist in religion and that, while Mr Bruels might have been under the impression that she was a Catholic, the secretary of the school section, Mr Coburn, had intimated to Mr Bruels that a Protestant teacher was preferred, and he found a school for Miss Retty in Ross township, and recommended Miss Zeroth to the trustees. The trustees had received an application from Miss Sparling, but had not met until she had been engaged elsewhere and then the list of available teachers had about been exhausted. The witnesses in this charge were Miss Retty, Trustees Lowe and Graham and Secretary Coburn. When the evidence was in Judge Dowsley said his impression was that he would report that the charge of partiality had not been established.

Clause C of charge one, relating to S. S. No. 3, Stafford, to the effect that Mr Bruels in 1913 took their teacher from the school against

amination of June, 1915. Mr Flach, chairman of the Board, testified that the grammar and composition papers had been returned to him that year to be re-read, the Department asking that he re-read the grammar paper (first read by Mr Bruels) and that he or Mr Bruels re-read the composition paper. His own papers evidently being correct, Mr Flach refused to re-read the others, and he was instructed to send them all on to the Department, which he did, hearing no more about them.

Mr Burrirt read correspondence with the Department asking for these papers, and which showed that they had in accordance with usual custom been destroyed, while Mr Colquhoun, Deputy-Minister, reported that the supervising examiner had, after investigation, stated that the examination of the grammar papers that year was very satisfactory. Mr Burrirt strongly criticized the Education Department for what he termed a clear evasion, for, having returned these papers,

(Continued on page six)