

INSPECTOR I. D. BRUELS FORMALLY REINSTATED

DEPARTMENT SAYS CHARGES
ARE NOT PROVEN.

The Observer can now adopt an "I-told-you-so" attitude in the matter of the suspension of Public School Inspector I. D. Bruels by the County Council at its session here last month. This paper at the time expressed the opinion that the Department of Education would be most likely to uphold the Inspector and this view is borne out by the reception by County Clerk R. J. Roney a few days ago of a letter stating that the charges made by members of the County Council do not lie within the meaning of that section of the Act under which they were laid, while, further, "that the said charges are not supported by adequate evidence." The Inspector has accordingly been re-instated and received from the Deputy-Minister a few days ago instructions to resume his duties.

It will be recalled that at the last meeting of the County Council charges were made by a number of members, prominent among the complainants being Messrs Geo. D. Biggs, Reeve of Alice, and Thos. H. Moffat, Deputy-Reeve of Pembroke. Mr Biggs alleged that there were grave irregularities, and the matter brought forth a great deal of discussion, with the result that the Council voted unanimously for the suspension of the Inspector. About ten days ago Inspector Waugh was down here from Toronto looking into the matter and went with the Inspector to interview certain teachers and others regarding the charges. It is now said that some members of the Council do not think that the investigation was a very thorough one, and it is hinted that more will be heard of the matter later on. They are quite indignant that a body which has the power to appoint an Inspector has no authority to dismiss him, regarding this as an anomaly that should be speedily remedied.

In the meantime Mr Bruels is back at his work. He declined to say anything for publication, though naturally quite pleased over the outcome of the trouble.

The letter from the Deputy-Minister is as follows:

Toronto, February 16th, 1916.
Dear Sir,—I am directed by the Minister of Education to state that the Chief Inspector of Public and Separate Schools has investigated the various charges made against Inspector Bruels at the recent meeting of the County Council of the County of Renfrew and submitted to this Department by the County Clerk in the form of a resolution adopted by the County Council at such meeting, and that he finds that the charges made for "incompetence and irregularities" do not lie within the meaning of clause 3, section 99 of the Acts of the Department of Education, under which the County Council has power to suspend an Inspector, and further that the said charges are not supported by adequate evidence. The Minister, therefore, directs me to state that under section 99, subsection 4, of the Acts of the Department of Education, he has removed the suspension and has directed the Inspector to resume his duties forthwith. A copy of the Minister's letter to Mr Bruels is enclosed herewith. You will be good enough to notify the Warden accordingly.

I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,

A. H. U. COLQUHOUN.

Deputy-Minister of Education.