

neighbouring parishes in such a way as to destroy the English-speaking majorities. Upon this suggestion, the committee unanimously agreed on a provision, which was drafted by Mr. Abbott, to the following effect: "It shall not be lawful to present to the Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec for assent any bill for altering the limits of any of the electoral divisions or districts mentioned in the second schedule of this act, unless the second and third readings of such bill have been passed in the Legislative Assembly with the concurrence of the majority of the members representing all the electoral divisions or districts, and the assent shall not be given to such bill, unless an address has been presented by the Legislative Assembly to the Lieutenant-Governor, stating that it has been so passed."

The schedule referred to contains the names of twelve counties then represented by English-speaking members, and the provision was at the time thought to be a fair safeguard for the political existence of the English-speaking population. It was accepted by the Government and inserted in the Act, and, though its paternity has been claimed by more than one of the English-speaking members of the day, it is known by those well informed in public matters that Mr. Abbott was its author and proposer.

It is a curious comment also on the importance which, at the time, this provision obtained in the eyes of the English-speaking population of Lower Canada that, at this moment, some of the constituencies named in the schedule are represented by French-Canadian members, and that, in most of them, the French-speaking population has very largely increased. The probability is that ere long a majority of those counties will be controlled by the French inhabitants.

Mr. Abbott continued to represent Argenteuil up to 1874. During this time, he applied himself mainly to the legislative business of the house, taking little part in party discussion. While Solicitor General, he entirely re-modeled the Lower Canadian Jury system, and introduced and carried measures providing for the payment of Government fees by stamps, which is now universally prevalent, with many beneficial results. During the same period, he introduced the Insolvent Act of 1864, which was not passed at the time of the dissolution of the House. Upon the organization of the new Government, Mr. Abbott had the distinguished honour of being asked by the Premier for permission to use the bill which had been introduced while that Premier