

The Employers' Parliamentary Council.

(To take action with respect to any Bills, introduced into either House of Parliament, affecting the interests of trade, of free contract, and of labour, or with respect to the action of Imperial or local authorities affecting in any way the said interests.)

7, VICTORIA STREET, WESTMINSTER.

MUNICIPAL TRADING: CONDITIONS OF CONTRACTS WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

The following information is extracted from a Parliamentary Return (No. 47 of 1898). The Return relates to urban districts only, which are classified under three heads—viz., County Boroughs, Non-county Boroughs, and Other Urban Districts; County Councils and the governing bodies in London are not included:—

CONDITIONS AS TO WAGES.

These vary very much in different localities, and may be classified under the following main heads:—
(1) current rates, (2) rates recognized by trade unions, (3) rates agreed on by associations of employers and employed, (4) rates fixed in contract. The conditions included in each of these classes are not absolutely identical. Some authorities require the wages paid to be those in force within their own jurisdiction; others, again, specify that they shall be those in the district where the work is executed. In some cases the stipulation applies merely to the contract itself; in other cases it is required that the contractors' workmen generally shall be treated on the same footing.

CURRENT RATES.—These are required to be paid in the case of contracts with each of the following thirty-one county boroughs:—

BIRMINGHAM	EXETER	LINCOLN	SALFORD
BOLTON	GATESHEAD	MANCHESTER	SOUTH SHIELDS
BOOTLE	GLOUCESTER	MIDDLESBROUGH	STOCKPORT
BRADFORD	GRIMSBY	NORWICH	WALSALL
BRISTOL	HASTINGS	NOTTINGHAM	WIGAN
BURNLEY	HULL	OLDHAM	WORCESTER
CHESTER	LEEDS	PLYMOUTH	YORK
DUDLEY	LEICESTER	ROCHDALE	

The same condition is also contained in the contracts of thirty-seven non-county boroughs and forty-seven other urban districts, making a total of *115 local authorities*.

RATES RECOGNIZED BY TRADE UNIONS.—These rates are required to be paid by the following ten county boroughs:—

CARDIFF	NEWPORT (MON.)	PORTSMOUTH	SWANSEA
DERBY	NORTHAMPTON	SHEFFIELD	WEST HAM
IPSWICH	OXFORD		

The same condition is enforced by seven non-county boroughs and seventeen other urban districts, making a total of *thirty-four local authorities*.

RATES AGREED ON BY ASSOCIATIONS OF EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYED.—These rates are required to be paid by the following six county boroughs:—

BARROW-IN-FURNESS	HALIFAX	SOUTHAMPTON	WOLVERHAMPTON
BRIGHTON	LIVERPOOL		

The same rates are stipulated for by one non-county borough and three other urban districts, making a total of *ten local authorities*.