

In the cases of two urban districts, for certain classes of work, workmen must not be under a specified age. One urban district, in requiring "that the contractors shall perform the whole of the work by proper workmen at trades-union rate of wages," has almost reached the socialist ideal. The returns, it should be stated, refer to 64 county boroughs, 242 non-county boroughs, and 780 other urban districts.

SCOTLAND.

The following information is extracted from a Parliamentary Return (No. 377 of 1898). The whole of the local authorities in Scotland are included, and are classified under the heads of Counties and Burghs :—

CONDITIONS AS TO WAGES.

The general remarks already made under the heading "England and Wales" apply also to Scotland.

CURRENT RATES.—These are required to be paid by the counties of CAITHNESS, ORKNEY, and SUTHERLAND. In the two latter cases the condition applies to piers only. The same stipulation is made by the following eleven burghs :—

ABERDEEN	DUNDEE	GOVAN	PARTICK
AYR	EDINBURGH	MOTHERWELL	PETERHEAD
DUMBARTON	GLASGOW	PAISLEY	

RATES RECOGNIZED BY TRADE UNIONS.—These are not stipulated for by any county, but are specified in the contracts of the burghs of CLYDEBANK and PERTH; in the latter case for police clothing only. The Return states that the condition is not actually enforced in Clydebank.

RATES FIXED IN CONTRACT.—Rates of wages are not specified by any county, and by only one burgh—that of KILMARNOCK—and in this case as to stone-breaking only.

OTHER CONDITIONS.

The four burghs of DUNDEE, GLASGOW, MOTHERWELL, and PAISLEY make a condition against sub-contracting.

The burghs of DUMBARTON and GLASGOW require police and other clothing to be made on the contractors' premises.

The Lower Ward of the county of LANARK and the burghs of GOUROCK and PAISLEY reserve the power to dismiss contractors' workmen.

Employment of local labour by preference is required by the counties of CAITHNESS, INVERNESS, and SUTHERLAND. In the last case the condition refers to piers only.

In one case, that of DUNDEE, the contracts, in addition to providing for the payment of current rates of wages, require that the contractor shall observe "the terms of any agreement that may have been mutually arranged between employers and workmen." GLASGOW insists upon the right to inspection of records (which it compels the contractor to keep) of names of, wages paid to, and hours kept by, all workpeople employed on its contracts. GREENOCK provides against the engagement by its contractors of any drivers under a specified age. PARTICK requires the observance of "the recognized hours and conditions of labour in each respective trade." It should be added that the Return relates to 33 counties and 202 burghs.

SOME CONCLUSIONS.

The *Labour Gazette*, in its issue for April, 1898, states that 163 local authorities in England and Wales, with an aggregate population of over eight and a-half millions, include in their contracts conditions as to wages; and 219 local authorities, with a population of somewhat over nine and a-quarter millions, specify various conditions as to employment (including conditions as to wages).

Eight hundred and sixty-seven local authorities, with a population of over seven and three-quarter millions, make no conditions as to employment in their contracts; but of these eleven indicate conditions which they desire to be observed, although not in the contract, and forty-one have never made any contracts. It is calculated that the whole of the urban districts of England and Wales (including London, about which the Return