

taken up for dredging is about a hundred and thirty; and although this industry promises to be attended with success, it will be wise on the part of those who intend to embark in it to ascertain first what certain prospect of success exists in particular localities, before incurring the cost of building dredges. It is frequently the case in the initiative of quartz-mining that expensive machinery is erected for the treatment of the products before sufficient work has been done to ascertain what the probable value of the material to be operated on may be. It is to be hoped that similar errors will not be made in the dredging industry.

ACCIDENTS ON DREDGES.

The high percentage of fatalities amongst the men employed on dredges (1 per cent.) during the past year has rendered it necessary that provision should be made to insure that all requisite precautions should be taken for the safeguard of the lives of the employes, and it is proposed to introduce legislation dealing with this matter during the session.

ACCIDENTS IN GOLD-MINES.

In the Auckland District three fatal accidents occurred; in the West Coast District four, and in the Southern District two, exclusive of accidents on dredges. The total number of fatalities was 14, and the number of miners engaged 14,198, which gives a proportion of about one per thousand.

DIVIDENDS.

THE following Table shows the Dividends paid by New Zealand Mining Companies during 1897 and 1898.

Name of Company.	Subscribed Capital.	Amount of Capital actually Paid.	Capital.			Dividends.			
			No. of Shares Issued.	Amount of Share.	Paid up per Share.	1897.		1898.	
						Per Share.	Total.	Per Share.	Total.
<i>Auckland.</i>									
Hauraki (Limited) .. .. .	£	£	..	..	..	..	£ 8,000	..	£
New Zealand Crown Mines (Limited) .. .. .	..	..	80,000	..	..	..	10,000	..	..
Royal Oak of Hauraki (Limited) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12,500
Waihi (Limited)*	160,000	106,667	160,000	20/	20/	..	64,000	..	32,000
Waioatahi (Limited)	18,000	15,000	6,000	20/	30/	..	750	..	300
Waitekauri	143,000	100,000	143,000	20/	20/	..	14,300	..	..
<i>Nelson and Westland.</i>									
Keep It Dark Quartz	20,000	6,208	20,000	20/	16/2½	..	2,000	..	..
Kumara Long Tunnel Sluicing	8,000	7,433	16,000	10/	9/3½	..	1,298	..	..
Mont d'Or Mining and Water-race Sluicing (Limited)	12,000	10,800	12,000	20/	18/	..	2,400	..	..
<i>Otago.</i>									
Molyneux Hydraulic .. .. .	..	..	{ A 5,690 B 4,310 }	..	..	..	..	..	465/10/0
Clyde Dredge (Limited)	3,850	3,840	80	1,000/	1,000/	..	5,800	..	400
Enterprise Gold Dredge	2,000	2,000	2,000	20/	20/	..	858	..	500
Ettrick Gold Steam-dredge (Limited)	2,500	1,937	{ 2,500† 2,000‡	20/	15/6 20/	..	1,013	..	..
Golden Gate Dredge (Limited)	2,500	2,500	2,500	20/	20/	..	2,000	..	..
Golden Run Dredge (Limited)	4,000	4,795	6,000	20/	20/	..	5,194	..	..
Golden Treasure Dredge (Limited)	1,500	1,384	3,000	20/	20/	..	3,739	..	143/16/0
Jutland Flat Waipori (Limited)	15,000	4,000	{ 5,000‡ 10,000†	20/	15/	..	1,500	..	..
Otago Gold-dredging (Limited)	4,500	2,000	4,000	20/	20/	..	1,300	..	1,000
Sandhills Dredging .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	125	..	..
Blue Spur and Gabriel's Gully Consolidated Sluicing (Limited)	89,066	30,000	{ 3,500§ 82,298||	20/	20/	..	4,078	..	..
Moonlight Sluicing	2,000	1,352	2,000	20/	17/6	..	400	..	..
Phoenix Water-race Sluicing	1,500	1,500	1,000	30/	30/	..	225	..	..
Roxburgh Amalgamated Mining and Sluicing (Limited)	29,152	12,737	{ 15,000‡ 14,152+ 10,000‡	20/	18/	..	841	..	750
Upper Waipori Alluvial Dredging	12,000	5,950	{ 14,000+ 14,000+ A 12,000	10/	10/	..	600	..	..
Morning Star Quartz	24,000	2,575	{ B 6,000 C 5,513	20/	8/6 20/	..	8,241	..	..
Sew Hoy Big Beach (in liquidation) .. .. .	..	..	..	20/	3/10	..	..	..	1,925

* Total amount of dividends paid by Waihi Company to date is £276,500. † Contributors. ‡ Vendors. § Preference. || Ordinary.