

In addition to the companies named in the foregoing table, the following were registered up to the 31st March, 1897 :—

Company.	Capital.	Company.	Capital.
Auckland—		Auckland—continued.	
Auckland Exploration Company ..	5,000	Trojan	7,500
Anglo-New Zealand Mines Investment ..	100,000	Wealthy Mint	4,500
Alpine	3,600	Wellington—	
Capstan	4,000	Franco-New Zealand Gold-mining Syndicate	
Dover Castle	4,000	(Limited)	10,000
Doris	6,000	Marlborough—	
Eaglehawk	8,000	Wakamarina Gorge and Deep Creek Gold-	
Grosvenor United (Limited)	2,945	mining Company (Limited)	24,000
Great Maratoto	2,000	Canterbury—	
Golden Centre	5,000	Alpha S.C. Syndicate (Limited)	5,000
Hinemca Hauraki	7,500	Barrytown Flat Gold-mining Company	20,000
Kennedy	6,000	Otago—	
Komata Crown	4,000	Beaumont Local Co-operative Gold-mining	
King of Omaha	4,000	Company (Limited)	3,000
Lioness	1,000	Deep Stream Amalgo-hydraulic Sluicing	
Mangakino	4,000	Company (Limited)	10,000
Monte Carlo	5,000	Golden Crown Dredging (Limited)	3,500
Mount Taylor (Limited)	15,000	Golden Lead Gold-dredging	3,500
Mount Lyell	5,700	Lion Rock Gold-dredging Company (Limited)	4,000
National	3,000	Matatapu Hydraulic Elevating and Sluicing	
New Year	5,000	Company (Limited)	805
Opal	3,500	Ophir and Ind Gold-dredging Company	
Peninsula Freehold	25,000	(Limited)	3,000
Rachel	3,000	Rock and Pillar Gold-dredging	3,000
Silas	4,500	Taieri Gold-sluicing (Limited)	10,000
Sceptre	5,000	Southland—	
Salisbury	5,000	Mataura River Steam Gold-dredging Company	5,000
Thames Exploration Syndicate of London and			
New Zealand	25,200		

WATER-CONSERVATION.

During my visits to the Otago and West Coast districts the subject of water-conservation was brought forcibly under my notice, and the importance of the question can hardly be over-estimated. An abundant supply of water is essentially the life of the mining industry in these districts, and, as will be seen by reference to detailed reports elsewhere, the lack of a permanent water-supply has been the cause of the yields of many of the mines not coming up to that high standard which would otherwise have been the case. The supply, more especially in Otago, has during the past summer been very limited, and, this being the case, the fact of the Government having taken the necessary steps for an exhaustive examination into the matter, with a view of ascertaining the best method of storage and delivery of the water-supply of the colony, will be very favourably received by those interested in mining. The report of the officer appointed for this purpose will be anxiously awaited by the miners interested. Having in view the fact that the water of the colony is one of its richest natural assets, and with a view of precluding the possibility of such a valuable asset being acquired by monopolists whose aim will necessarily be to derive individual profit from what should be for the common benefit, a series of suggested conditions, to be inserted in licenses issued in respect to reservoirs in which the storage of any considerable quantity of water is proposed and water-races for the distribution of large quantities of water, was issued for the consideration of Wardens. The suggested conditions are as follows :—

Special conditions to be inserted in licenses for dams of large areas, granted subject to the following reservations in favour of Her Majesty the Queen, her successors, licensees, and assigns, and the conditions following, that is to say :—

RESERVATIONS.

Reserving—

- (a.) The full and free right for all and sundry, Her Majesty's liege subjects, who may now or at any time or times hereafter do so, lawfully to fish and to boat over the site of the dam within described.
- (b.) All fish now or hereafter being or placed in, upon, or about the site of the said dam.
- (c.) The full and free right for all and sundry, Her Majesty's liege subjects, to use the site of the said dam, and any Crown lands immediately adjoining thereto, as a place of public recreation and resort.
- (d.) The full and free right to all the water of the watershed of the site of the said dam.
- (e.) The full and free right of Her Majesty the Queen, her successors, licensees, and assigns, and to all present or future holders of miner's rights issued pursuant to the gold-fields laws of the colony for the time being in force, to discharge water-tailings and mining *débris* into, along, and upon the watershed of the site of the said dam, and through such watershed on to the said site itself, without being liable to any actions, suit, or other proceeding, or to any claim for an injunction made at the instance of the grantee, his executors, administrators, and assigns.
- (f.) The right to grant to any person or persons, or body or bodies politic or corporate, being the holders of such miner's rights as aforesaid, who shall be prepared to increase the storage-capacity of the said dam, the right to do all things that may be necessary to increase such storage, as well as to divert such a quantity of water as