

Office Mil Board
Austin Texas
May 20th 1864.

Capt Thos F. Luckett
First B. M. Co.

Your of the 10th inst to his Excellency was by him been laid before the Mil Board. We are much surprised to learn of the existence of such a state of affairs. And as we have to act on such matters, we request that all communications on this & similar subjects be not made private but official, altho your communication has been laid before the M.B. it will be treated as private.

Understanding from the parties who before the Board that Wheat & Fletcher had withdrawn from the Brazos Manufacturing Company, and had concluded to start a manufactory of their own, we entered into a contract of the same nature with Wheat & Fletcher, that we entered into with the Brazos manuf Co.

The charges you make against McDowell, coming as they do cannot be acted on by the Board, and no action in the case can be had until the Board are officially in possession of information that will authorize our taking steps for his removal.

Dr Hammond comes to us as the agent and we might say principal of the Company as far as the management of affairs is represented to us by him - we hoped that the State was affording protection to enterprises that would be vastly beneficial to the Citizens at large and believed that from representations made to us that we were purchasing such enterprises when we entered into contracts with parties for the introduction of machinery.

Our object is to aid to the extent of our ability persons engaging in such enterprises, when we are convinced of their intention to faithfully carry out their agreements, but will unhesitatingly withdraw our protection & countenance the moment we are convinced of unfaithfulness or fraud on the part of persons entering into contracts to introduce machinery -

The facts in regard to the frauds ^{reported} to be perpetrated, we wish made known at once.

If you do not wish your name to be reported to the Rio Grande you will notify Col E B Nichols State Agent at Eagle Pass at once. Have