

# Editorial



# Comment

By Jacob C. Morse

WITH thirty-eight names on his reserved list, President Dovey ought to be able to find material for a first-class aggregation in another season. Mr. Dovey is nothing if not persistent, and will not stop until he gives Boston a National League team worthy of the name.

Baseball lost one of its leading lights in Frank DeHass Robison of Cleveland, one of the owners of the St. Louis National League club. He was one of the most popular men connected with the game. He died at Cleveland of apoplexy and was stricken while he was at the telephone listening to the returns of a game Cleveland was playing at the time. Although an ardent National League man, he was so broad that he could root strongly for the club that represented the city that was his home and of which he was so proud. To the bereft family and to his brother, M. Stanley Robison, the president of the St. Louis club, will go the sympathy of the whole baseball world.

"Billy" Hamilton, who managed the Haverhill club of the New England League so acceptably the past season, has made a change, having accepted an offer to manage the Lynn club. The veteran Harry O'Hagan assumed this post at the beginning of the past season.

It is safe to say that fully \$70,000 was expended by the major league clubs in railroading the past season. The St. Louis of the American League and the Pittsburgs of the National League went to the largest expense in this direction—the latter owing to the frequent trips to Chicago to play Sunday ball. The

Philadelphia teams of both leagues expended the least money. Pittsburg traveled over 15,000 miles.

In the next number of THE BASEBALL MAGAZINE there will appear an article on the game between the Boston professional players of twenty years ago and the veteran college players of that period. Sixteen professional players took part, headed by Albert G. Spalding, the daddy of them all, who was with Boston the first year there was a professional baseball league, and there were twenty-seven collegem en representing six institutions, and the veteran of them was Flagg '66, who organized the first Harvard nine.

First Baseman Merkle of the New York Nationals certainly forgot himself when he neglected to run to second base in the game with Chicago, September 23, after Bridwell had made the hit that should have scored the winning run. The rules say that no run can be scored on a force-out on the third out. Of course such a thing was never contemplated as a man failing to score the point necessary to complete a play. Merkle evidently forgot all about himself, and all that he realized was that his team-mate had made a safe hit that sent in the run. He was entirely lost as to the part he was to play in the matter, and, according to the rules, the game was not ended, as he failed to prevent a force-out, as he could easily have done. It was a technicality, of course, but many a game has been won in this manner. It is simply amazing how many players are ignorant of the rules. Players will make the funniest kind of breaks, but that of Merkle was about as bad a one as was ever perpetrated, especially with the struggle for first place so close.