

# April 7, 1886

## Motley Crowd

A special meeting of the New England League is convened at the Commonwealth Hotel in Haverhill, Massachusetts ... *The Sporting Life* notes that "at an early hour the corridors of the hotel were filled with a motley crowd of candidates for the positions of umpires, baseball players, delegates and friends of the various clubs."

Franchises represented at the meeting are Boston, Brooklyn, N.Y., Brockton, East Weymouth, Haverhill, Lawrence, Newburyport and Portland.

In executive session, led by league president W.H. Moody, it is voted that (1) umpires should be in uniform when on the field, (2) that salaries should be \$100 per month, with substitutes to be paid "in ratio," (3) each club is required to post a \$500 bond as a guarantee by April 15 to start the season, and (4) the Spalding baseball will be retained as the official ball of the league.

Meanwhile, down South...

Plans for a six-team Gulf League are finalized with franchises located in Pensacola, New Orleans, Columbus, Selma, Mobile and Montgomery ... league officers confirm that application has been submitted for admission to the organized baseball's National Agreement and that the league will open its inaugural season on April 24 and end on October 15.

The league single game guarantee is set at \$55 per team and the visiting team is to be paid 35 percent of the game's gate ... each city is expected to furnish three umpires of which one will be selected by the visiting club for that day's game ... the rules of National League are adopted and league's official baseball will be the Hunter & Gebslinger ball of New Orleans.