

# The Sphinx Answers

*EDITOR'S NOTE:—THE BASEBALL MAGAZINE has contracted with the greatest athletic authorities in the world to answer all reasonable questions that you may ask. All baseball problems will be answered by Jacob C. Morse, while the questions relating to other branches of sports will be turned over to other experts. If you have any knotty little question that has been racking your brain, send it in and receive an authoritative answer.*

*First Base, Denver*—It is impossible to state the largest paid attendance of the season of the past season. Chicago claims the best attendance in the game played with Pittsburg in the former city, Oct. 4, when it is said over 30,000 people paid admission fees, but the attendance in New York when Chicago and New York played off their tie is said to have been even larger.

\* \*

*Dropped Ball, Washington, D. C.*—Chase, the first baseman of the New York Americans, is liable to a fine for playing with an outlaw club. The size of the penalty lies with the National Commission.

\* \*

*Portland, Me.*—The Worcester club has thrice won the championship of the New England League in the three seasons it has been in that organization.

\* \*

*Grand Stand, New York*—Up to this season it was not possible to jam as many as 30,000 people into the Polo Grounds. The seating capacity will be increased in another season so that many more than that number will be able to secure accommodations.

\* \*

*South End, Boston*—There is nothing to prevent two clubs in one city from playing on the same ground, but it has never been done, and it is doubtful if it ever will be.

\* \*

*L. M., Jersey City*—Eason, the manager of the Lawrence club, is the same man who formerly pitched for the Brooklyn club of the National League. Yes, he pitched for Lawrence last season and was very successful.

*Bangor, Me.*—Walter Burnham sold out his holdings in the Newark club to Geo. Stallings and retired temporarily from baseball. It is very probable, however, that he will manage an Eastern League club in 1909.

\* \*

*Fan, Dallas, Tex.*—There seems to be little doubt that Chris Speaker will play regularly in the outfield of the Boston American League team next season.

\* \*

*Bleacher, Detroit*—There seems little reason to doubt that Mr. McGraw will again manage the New York National League club next season. So far as is known, his handling of the club gave entire satisfaction to the stockholders of the club. Financially, the club receipts were the largest ever chronicled in baseball.

\* \*

*Eaton, Randolph, Vt.*—For the size of the Philadelphia National League ground write to President William J. Shettsline, Philadelphia. It is possible to make a home run on that ground by a drive over the right field fence, but the left field is so deep that it is not possible to drive the ball out of the lot.

\* \*

*S. S., Toronto*—It is the general impression that Joe Kelley will go back to Toronto as manager, but President Dovey of the Boston club says there will be no change in the management of his club.

\* \*

*Current, New Haven*—Albert Orth, formerly of the New York American League club, is managing the Lynchburg, Va., club of the Virginia State League.

*Holyoke*—We cannot tell you the present whereabouts of Jack Tighe.

\* \*

*Boston*—Charley Snyder, who once caught for the Bostons, is a resident of Washington, D. C.

\* \*

*Catcher, Williamsport, Pa.*—Tom Brown umpired in the Southern League last season.

\* \*

*Backstop, St. Louis*—The catchers of the Boston American League club, at the close of the season of 1908, were Criger, Carrigan and Donahue. Carrigan was stricken with appendicitis toward the close of the season and was unable to work again, but he will be with the team next season.

\* \*

*Double Play, Rochester*—Thomas W. Corcoran, formerly the shortstop of the Cincinnati Reds, is at present managing the New Bedford club of the New England League. He succeeded James E. Canavan, also a veteran player. So far as is known, Canavan is not engaged by any club for next season. He can be addressed at New Bedford, Mass.

\* \*

*Anxious, Manchester, N. H.*—Bush was not allowed to play with Detroit in the world's championship games because he was not a member of the club at the period after which no new faces could be added to the roster of players eligible to play in those games. This was done in order to prevent the addition of players to strengthen the club.

\* \*

*Anxious, Baltimore*—Umpire O'Laughlin makes his home in Rochester, New York, during the off season. Umpire Thomas H. Connolly of the American League lives in Natick, Mass. Umpire Sheridan lives in Chicago, and Umpire Evans in Youngstown, Ohio, while Umpire Hurst makes his headquarters at the Hotel Bartholdi, New York City.

*Inquirer, Brooklyn*—A. G. Spalding is at present in Europe.

\* \*

*Waltham*—Frank Selee is now interested in the St. James Hotel in Denver, Colo., and can be addressed accordingly.

\* \*

*J. Benney, Deadwood, S. D.*—The great Mike Kelly and Pitcher John Clarkson were sold by the Chicago Nationals to the Boston Nationals, each for \$10,000.

\* \*

*Subscriber, New Orleans*—The salary of a player is a private matter and at best largely a matter of guess work. Lajoie undoubtedly is one of the highest-salaried players in the country, but it may well be doubted if he receives such a sum as \$10,000.

\* \*

*Backstop, Haverhill, Mass.*—The original "Buck" Freeman played with the Minneapolis club last season. He was formerly a member of the Washington and Boston National and American League clubs. Owing to an injury to his shoulder, he was out of the game most of the time last season. His home is in Wilkesbarre, Pa.

\* \*

*Gotham, N. Y.*—In deciding the Merkle affair, the Board of Directors were guided wholly by the strict letter of baseball law which says that no run can be scored on a third out that is a force out. There is no reason to believe that the National League will reverse this finding of its board.

\* \*

*East End, Pittsburg*—The choice of the premier outfielder of all time in baseball is a difficult one, and each man is entitled to his opinion. With many who have kept in touch with the game for years and years, Curtis Welch of the old St. Louis Brown four-time victors, has the call. He was very strong in all departments of the game, and his ability to judge any kind of a fly ball was simply marvelous. Johnston of the Bostons, of the National League in the eighties, was also a wonderful ball tosser.