

PEKIN WILL SEND BAND TO NORWAY

Splendid Musical Organization Is Completing Arrangments for Trip to the Fatherland.

Claiming the distinction of the only musical organization in the northwest and possibly the entire country that will make the trip, the little town of Pekin is completing arrangements to send its twenty-five piece band to Norway this summer to join in the centennial celebration. On the steamship St. Paul, which has been chartered by the Sons of Norway, the band from the little town of less than 200 inhabitants will sail May 7 from New York. North Dakota will be well represented on the voyage, it being expected that over 200 Norwegians will make the trip to their fatherland to assist in the greatest celebration in the history of the country.

The fact that the Pekin band is a self-made and self-supported organization, made up to a large extent of Scandinavians, resulted in its attempting such an undertaking as a trip across the Atlantic. While the band is well known over the state of North Dakota, where many engagements have been filled, the journey to Christiania will without question be the longest trip taken by a like organization in history. But the boys who compose the membership are a sturdy lot who are undaunted by ordinary obstacles. Of the twenty-five musicians, over half of them reside on farms, some of which are no small distance from Pekin. Seven of the members live an average of five and a half miles from Pekin, but that didn't stop them from attending rehearsals every week, winter and summer. Some came on motor cycles, others have cars, while many drove horses. No matter what their conveyance it is a fact that they got there. This alone has attracted no small amount of attention.

The Pekin band boys didn't wait for the business men to take the lead in making possible such an organization. They asked financial aid from no one, purchasing their own instruments, two sets of uniforms and other paraphernalia necessary. It will take about \$6000 to finance the trip to Norway, but that doesn't daunt the boys. The band will have a conspicuous place at the official North Dakota exhibit which is being made by Alfred Gabrielson of Fargo.