

## **HUGO'S LAST BANK CLOSED**

City National Is Third Institution To Close At Hugo  
The Soper Democrat May 28, 1925 - transcribed by Ron Henson

Tuesday morning Hugo was without a bank, the City National Bank having failed to open its doors that day. This was the only bank in Hugo following the closing of the Hugo National and Hugo State banks on May 6<sup>th</sup>. The Liberty State Bank of Soper also failed to open May 6<sup>th</sup>.

Choctaw County has only two banks left, they being at Boswell and Ft. Towson.

A sign on the Hugo bank's doors read: "Owing to withdrawals this bank is closed to protect its depositors by order of the board of directors."

Following is the statement made by the bank's president, W.E.B. Leonard:  
STATEMENT TO THE PUBLIC:

"About 1 o'clock a.m. Wednesday night, May 7, we were informed that the Hugo National bank would not open its doors that morning. We felt that it was our duty to the community to keep the City National bank going if possible, and thereby be able to do a good public service, and be in a better position to assist the opening of the other banks.

"The community spirit was good and rallied to our assistance. The only possible thing to do to keep open at that time was to limit withdrawals for two or three days. The depositors were reasonable and considerate, and we felt that closing would not be necessary; however, withdrawals began on Saturday May 23, and continued to grow heavier until closing time on May 26.

"At 8 o'clock p.m. on the 26<sup>th</sup>, the board of directors met in called session and canvassed the entire situation. We found that withdrawals had been heavy for three days at the window and through the reserve bank. We had been able to clear everything up to that time, but the situation was such that we would not be able to meet our clearance on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

"We could have borrowed money to tide over a day or two, but the board of directors felt that it would have the appearance of dissipating the assets and came to the conclusion that the only fair thing for us to do on behalf of our depositors was to close at this time, and for that reason the bank was closed by order of the board of directors.

"Many a good citizen of Hugo stood by the bank loyally, trying to stem the tide, and keep it open for the sake of the entire community, and all parties concerned, and so far as we know, no one in particular is to blame for the situation.

"We trust that this additional calamity falling upon our city and county will not interfere, retard, or delay the plans on foot to re-open the Hugo National and Hugo State banks.

"Judging from the encouraging messages we are having over the telephone and otherwise, the prospects seem bright for a complete

reorganization of this institution without loss to the depositors.

"The officers of this bank have made a hard fight to keep it going, and are deeply grateful for the encouragement they have had from so many people.

CITY NATIONAL BANK,

By W.E.B. LEONARD.

President."