

The Whirlwind of Santa Maria, Pangasinan, on April 2, 1926 - The local press featured prominently the passage of a destructive typhoon over the town of Santa Maria, Pangasinan, on April 2, 1926. The fact that the storm, was supposed to have demolished the Church of the town at the very time of the religious services on Good Friday with death of several worshippers aided the reporters in giving to the story a touch of religious commiseration. Which are the true facts? There is no meteorological station at Santa Maria, from which reports could be expected. Through correspondence with the municipal and ecclesiastical authorities and by personal conversation with intelligent persons of the region, the following facts were ascertained. First, a thunderstorm developed on April 2nd, in the plains northwest of San Quintin, and moving westsouthwestward passed between Tayug and Santa Maria to be dissipated along the banks of the Agno River. Second, there was no cyclonic circulation of the wind: the people both at Tayug and at Santa Maria observed that the wind was blowing steadily from the E or NE all the time. Third, according to the municipal Presidents both of Tayug and Santa Maria the storm was attended by heavy hailstones. The President of Tayug remarks that since time immemorial no hailstorm had been observed at Tayug. All persons agree that the air during the passage of the storm was very cold. The variations of the barometric pressure associated with the storm are not known: there was no barometer in Santa Maria: the owner of a barometer at Tayug failed to observe it during the passage of the storm.