

## WEATHER PROPHET NEVER MISTAKES

Santa Clara, Cal., Jan. 6.—Sun-spots are the cue for a perfect weather science, says Father Jerome S. Ricard of Santa Clara University, bolstering his prediction by a record



Father Jerome Ricard.

for accurate storm prognostication  
which has given him wide repute.

Claiming that he has not made a mistake in the past seven years, Father Ricard contends that the sun

presents a perfect weather schedule on its face to be read by anyone with a telescope and a guide of past observations.

"A storm," declares this genial, studious priest of 65, "never comes without its accompanying sun-spot. The two always go together.

"These 'spots' are whorls in the sun's atmosphere, traveling from east to west around the orb. For the past 15 years I have observed that whenever one of these spots appears in certain position, a storm enters the Pacific coast.

"Always they produce a low barometrical pressure up around the Aleutian Islands and the north coast of Europe, traveling southward across the western reaches of both continents.

"In winter these traveling low-pressure air areas gather moisture, and it rains or snows. In summer the storms occur just the same, according to the position of the sun-spots, but their manifestation may only be wind, excessive heat or clouds, without rain.

"My critics have said I miss the rain. I don't miss. The criticism is based on the popular conception of storm, which differs from the meteorological definition.

"If I forecast ten storms a month, ten appear. I have not known it to fail in complete observations since 1906.

"But whether or not there will be rain in the storm I am not as yet able to predict accurately.

"Many a determined storm comes to grief because it is sidetracked or entirely broken up by an antagonistic current—in great air battles.

"The problem now is to solve why storms take a given track, and here, too, I believe the solution lies in sun-spots—in their position, size and form. This will take the closest observation for years.

"But I believe we are on the track