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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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STORMS AND BEACHES

By Charles Fitzhugh Talman,
Authority on Meteorology

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Writing in the Engineering News-Record, Victor Gelineau, director of the New Jersey State Board of Commerce and Navigation, tells of the immense amount of damage done to beach property last winter by a series of onshore storms that swept the Atlantic seaboard from Florida to the outermost coasts of Newfoundland and Labrador. Though recent damage has been exceptionally heavy, such losses go on from year to year. During the past century the shoreline of New Jersey is supposed to have receded at an average rate of 1 1/2 feet a year. The taxable valuation of this state's 125 miles of beach property is more than \$550,000,000, or \$4,000,000 a mile of beach. No estimate has been made of the losses resulting from battering waves and invading waters, but they must be enormous.

"That these losses are preventable," says Mr. Gelineau, "has been amply and convincingly demonstrated by experience on the New Jersey coast. The recent storms wrought no damage on the frontages protected by the state-aid jetties with bulkheads or sea walls. Outside the zones of these protective devices serious losses occurred."

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