



Smithsonian Institution

Archives Center - NMAH

Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909

Extracted on Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

The Smithsonian Institution continues to research information on its collections and is thankful to the digital volunteers who helped to transcribe this material. We look forward to using the work they created to further enrich our collections.

- Before you incorporate this material into a for-profit publication or online project, please contact the Archives Center - NMAH;
- Please leave source and copyright information as is and avoid obscuring these details in the material;
- Do not post this document as a whole to a social media site, such as a blog, Facebook page, Twitter feed, etc;
- Researchers: if you deposit this material, please let Archives Center - NMAH know where the material is deposited so that we can guide the community members to it.

Contact the Smithsonian Institution for the current status of this project and related material. To see this project online - or other transcription projects - please visit [here](#).

3 Nov 6 1908
April 6 1909

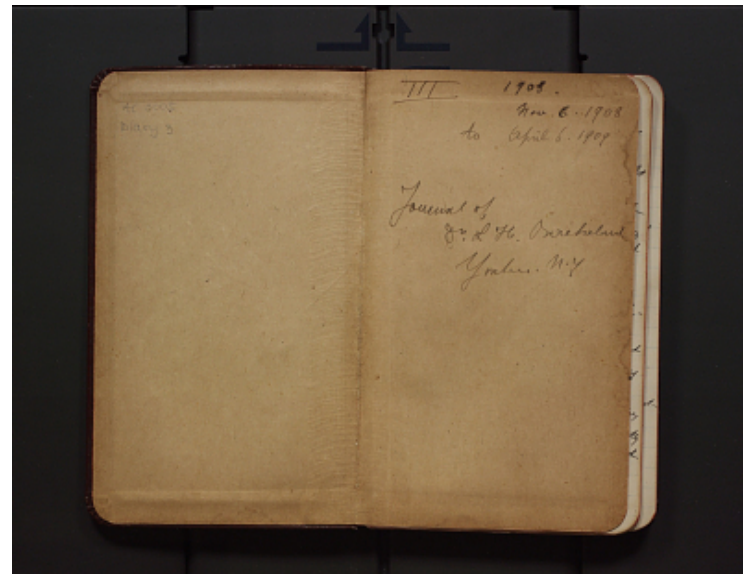
Record



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

AC 0005
Diary 3
[[end page]]
[[start page]]
III 1908.
Nov. 6 . 1908
to April 6 . 1908

Journal of
Dr. L. H. Baekeland
Yonkers, N.Y.



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

[[blank page]]
[[end page]]
[[start page]]

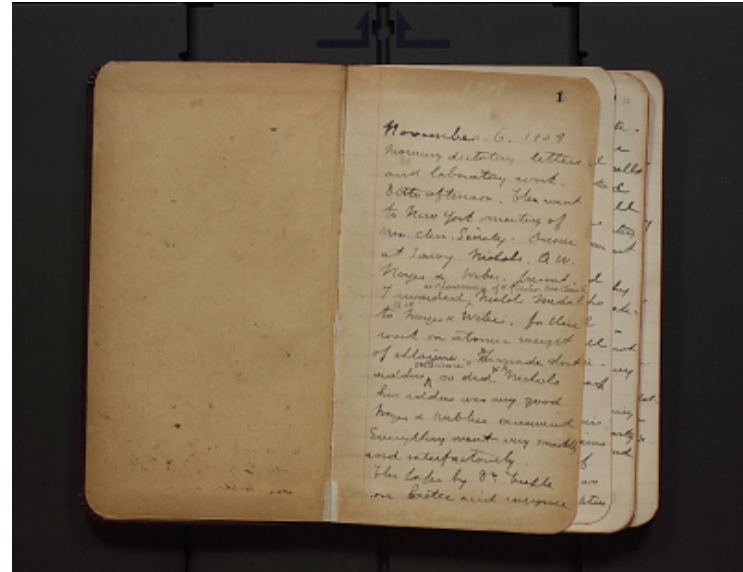
[[preprinted]] 1 [[/preprinted]]

November. 6. 1908

morning dictating letters and laboratory work. Ditto afternoon. Then went to New York. meeting of Am. Chem. Society. Dinner at Savoy Nichols. A W Noyes & Weber present I awarded ^[[insertion]] as chairman of N.Y Section Am. Chem. S. [[/insertion]] Nichols Medal to A.W Noyes & Weber. for chem work on automic weight of chlorine. I made short address ^[[insertion]] see "Science" [[/insertion]] so did W. H. Nichols his address was very good.

Noyes & Webber concurred. Everything went very smoothly and satisfactorily.

The paper by Dr Teeple on lactic acid enzyme



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

meeting finished shortly after ten. Walked with Pefford, Evans, Rebman and two other gentlemen to Lotus Club where we had some further scientific talk between a glass of beer and a sandwich. Took 12 30 train with Evans and Rebman. Nov. 7. dictated letters. to several friends hoping to raise small loan of \$2000 for American Chemical Society. I subscribed \$333. and Loeb and Toch did the same. In the evening meeting of the Anvil Club. Kelman entertained at Mrs Wadsworths

[[end page]]

[[start page]]

[[preprinted]] 3 [[/preprinted]]

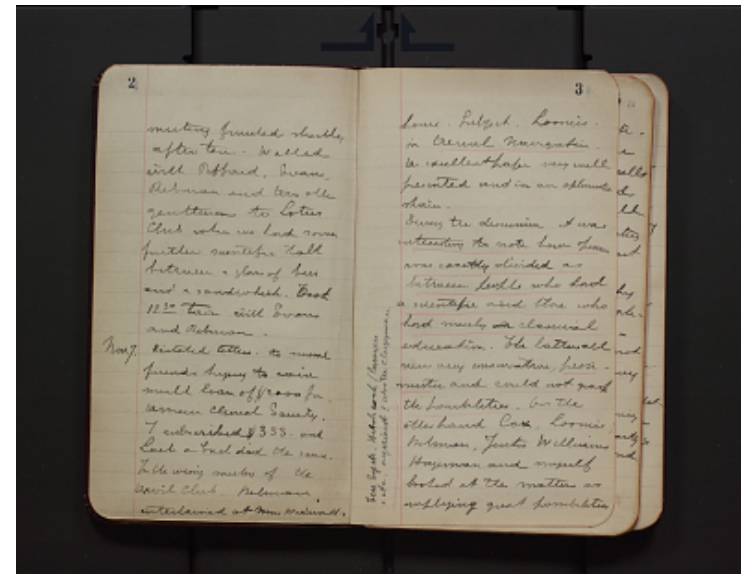
house. Subject. Loomis on Aerial Navigation. An excellent paper very well presented and in an optimistic strain.

During the discussion it was interesting to note how opinion was exactly divided as between people who had a scientific and those who had merely a classical education.

[[margin]] Ten Eyok? etc. Hitchcock (lawyers. etc. against) also the clergymen etc.

The latter all run very conservative, pessimistic and could not grasp the possibilities.

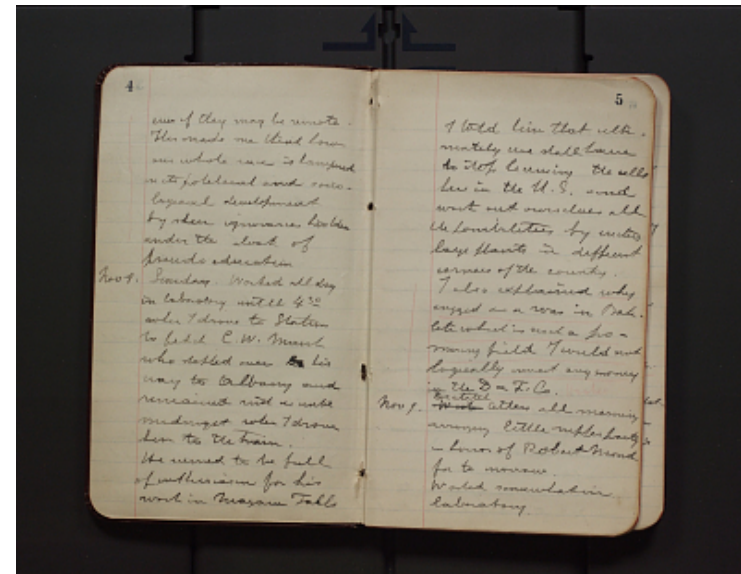
On the other hand Cox, Loomis, Kelman, Jenks, Williams, Hagerman and myself looked at the matter as implying great possibilities



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

4
even if they may be remote. He made me think how our whole race is hampered in its political and sociological development by sheer ignorance hidden under the cloak of pseudo education.
Nov 8. Sunday. Worked all day in laboratory until 4:30 when I drove to Station to fetch C. W. March who stopped over ~~his way to Albany~~ and remained with us until midnight when I drove him to the train.
He seemed to be full of enthusiasm for his work in Niagara Falls

5
I told him that ultimately we shall have to stop licensing the cells here in the U.S. and work out ourselves all the possibilities by erecting large plants in different corners of the country.
I also explained why engaged as I was in Bakelite which is such a promising field, I could not logically invest any money in the D & F. Co.
Nov 9. ~~Wrote~~ Dictated letters all morning arranging little supper party in home of Robert Mond for tomorrow
Worked somewhat in laboratory.



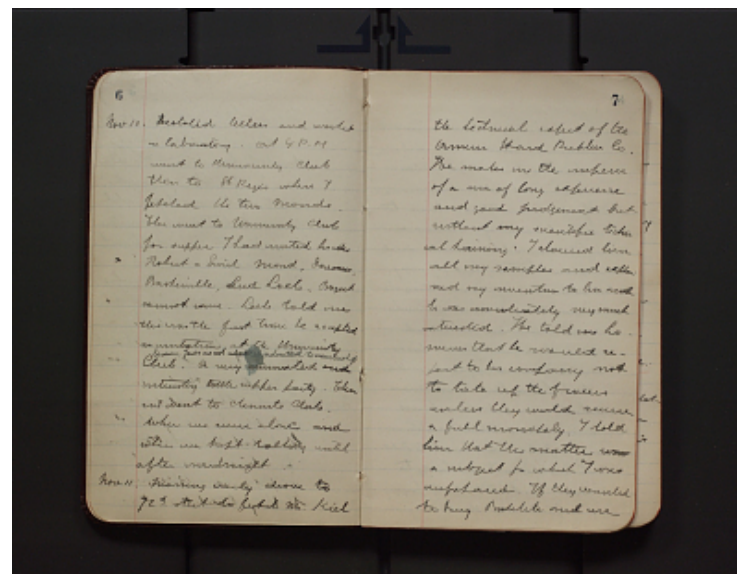
Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

6

Nov 10. Dictated letters and worked in laboratory. At 4 P.M went to University Club then to St Regis where I fetched the two Mond. Then went to University Club for supper. I had invited his Robert & Emil Mond, Doremus, Baskerville and Loeb. Boqart cannot come. Loeb told me this was the first time he accepted an invitation at the University Club. because Jews are not admitted admitted to membership. A very animated and interesting little supper party. Then we went to Chemists' Club. where we were alone and where we kept talking until after midnight. Nov 11. Morning early drove to 72d street to fetch Mr Kiel

7

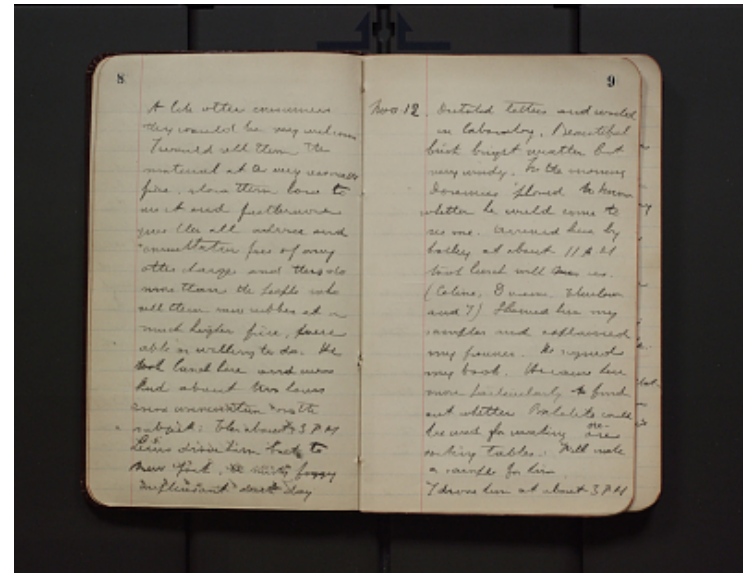
the technical expert of American Hard Rubber Co. He makes me the impression of a man of long experience and sound judgement but without my scientific technical training. I showed him all my samples and explained my invention to him and he was immediately very much interested. He told me however that he would report to his company not to take up the process unless they could secure full monopoly. I told him that the matter was a subject for which I was unprepared. If they wanted to buy Bakelite and use



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

8
it like other consumers they would be very welcome. I would sell them the material at a very reasonable price, show them how to use it and furthermore give them all advice and "consultation free of any other charge and this do more than the people who sell them raw rubber at a much higher price, were able or willing to do. He took lunch here and we had about two hours more conversation another subject. The about 3 P.M Lewis drove him back to New York. A misty foggy unpleasant dark day.

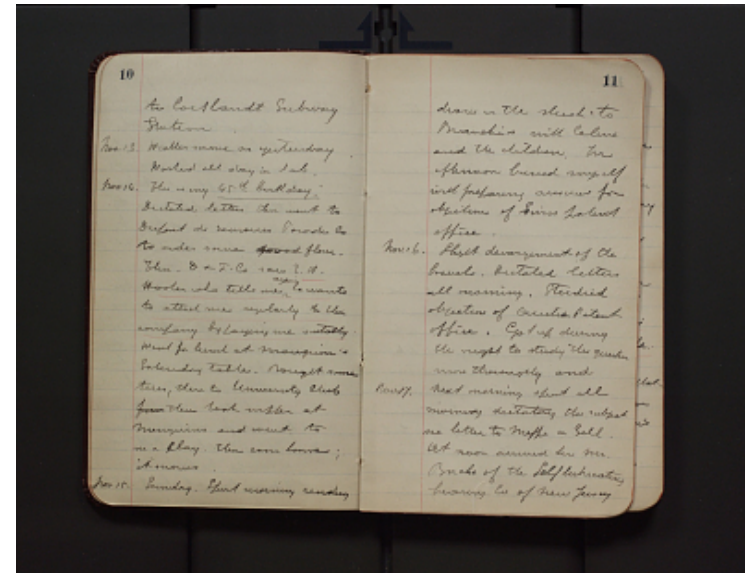
9
12 letters and worked in laboratory. Beautiful bright weather but very windy. In the morning phoned to know whether he could come to see me. Arrived here by at about 11 A.M took lunch ~~thi~~ ~~me~~ us. [Celine, Thulow and I] Showed him my samples and explained my processes. He signed my book. He came here particularly to find out whether Bakelite could be used for making tables. Will make a sample for him. I him at about 3 P.M



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

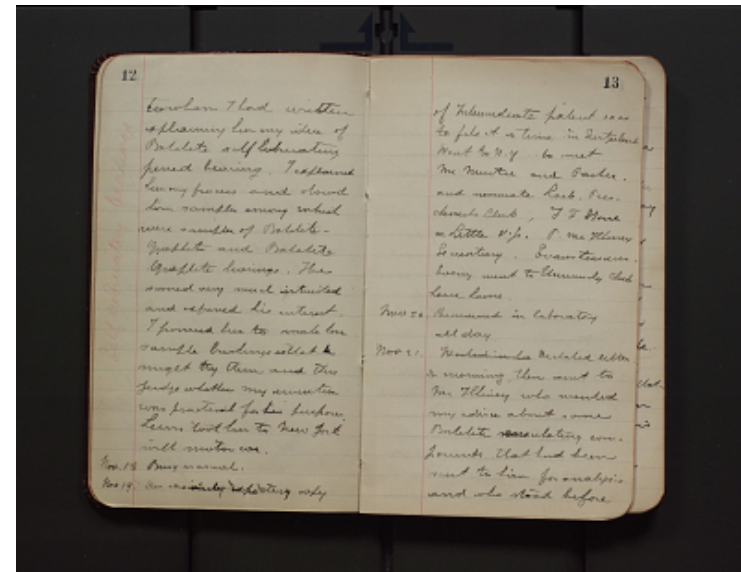
[[preprinted]] 10 [[/preprinted]]
to Courtlandt Subway Station.
[[margin]] Nov 13. [[/margin]] Weather same as yesterday. Worked all day in lab.
[[margin]] Nov 14. [[/margin]] This is my 45th birthday
[[/u]] Dictated letters then went to Dupont de Nemours Powder Co to order some wood flour.
The D & F Co saw E. A. Hooker who tells me [^][[insertion]] again [^][[insertion]] he wants to attach me regularly to their company by paying me suitably [[/u]]
Went for lunch at Mouguin's Saturday table. Bought some tires, then to University club ~~[[/del]]~~ from ~~[[/del]]~~ then took super at Mouguin's and went to see a play. then came home; it snows.
[[margin]] Nov 15 [[/margin]] Sunday. Spent morning reading
[[end page]]
[[start page]]

[[preprinted]] 11 [[/preprinted]] drove in the slush to Branchi's with Celine and the children. In afternoon buried myself with preparing answers for objections of Swiss patent office.
[[margin]] Nov. 6. [[/margin]] Slight discouragement of the bowels.
Dictated letters all morning. Studied objections of Austrian Patent office. Got up during the night to study the question more thoroughly and
[[margin]] Nov 17. [[/margin]] next morning spent all morning dictating the subject see letter to [[Mepper & Sell?]].
At noon arrived here Mr. Buche of the Self Lubricating bearing Co. of New Jersey
[[end page]]



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

[[preprinted]] 12 [[/preprinted]]
 [[margin]] self lubricating bearings [[/margin]]
 to whom I had written explaining him my idea of Bakelite self lubricating
 bearing. I explained him my process and showed him samples
 among which were samples of Bakelite - graphite and Bakelite graphite
 bearings. He seemed very much interested and expressed his interest.
 I promised him to make him sample bushings so that he might try them
 and thus judge whether my invention was practical for his purposes.
 Lewis took him to New York with motor car.
 [[margin]] Nov. 18 [[/margin]] Busy as usual
 [[margin]] Nov. 19. [[/margin]] am anxiously expecting copy
 [[end page]]
 [[start page]]
 [[preprinted]] 13 [[/preprinted]]
 of intermediate patent so as to file it in time in Switzerland. Went to N.Y
 to meet Mr Murtrie and Parker and nominate Loeb Pres. Chemical Club,
 T. F Stone & Little V.P. P. Mr. [[Theney?]] Secretary. Evans treasurer.
 Eveng went to University Club hence home.
 [[margin]] Nov. 20. [[/margin]] Remained in laboratory all day
 [[margin]] Nov. 21. [[/margin]] ~~Worked in la~~
~~Dictated letters in morning, then went to Mr [[Thleney?]]~~
 who wanted my advice about some Bakelite simulating compounds that
 had been sent to him for analysis and who stood before



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
 Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
 Approved by Smithsonian Staff
 Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

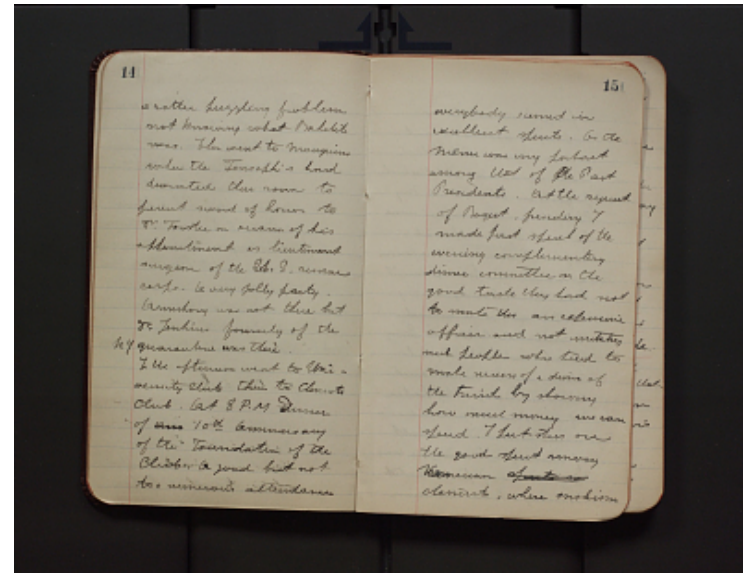
[[preprinted]] 14 [[/preprinted]]
a rather puzzling problem not knowing what Bakelite was. Then went to Mougins where the Fensoph's had decorated their room to present sword of honor to Dr. Forster on occasion of his appointment as Lieutenant surgeon of the U. S. reserve corps. A very jolly party. Armstrong was not there but Dr. Jenkins formerly of the NY quarantine was there.

In the afternoon went to University Club then to Chemists Club. At 8 P.M. dinner of ~~ann~~ 10th anniversary of the foundation of the Club. A good but not too numerous attendance.

[[end page]]

[[start page]]
[[preprinted]] 15 [[/preprinted]]

everybody seemed in excellent spirits. On the menu was my portrait among that of the Past Presidents. At the request of Boquet presiding, I made first speech of the evening complementing dinner committee on the good taste they had not to make this an expensive affair and not imitating rich people who tried to make success of a dinner of the ~~[[turist?]]~~ by showing how much money we can spend. I put stress on the good spent among American ~~[[?]]~~ so ~~[[?]]~~ chemists, where snobism



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

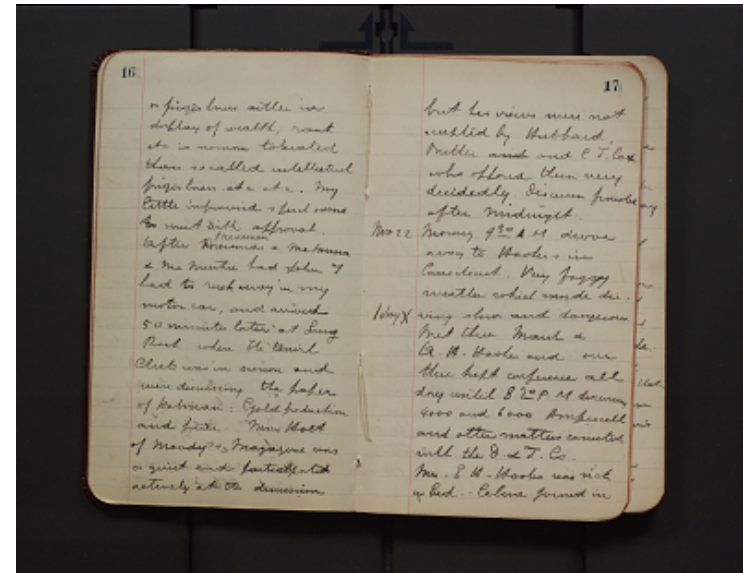
[[preprinted]] 16 [[/preprinted]]
or pigishness either in display of wealth, rank, etc is no more tolerated than so called intellectual prishness, etc. etc. My little improvised speech seems to meet with approval. After Breneman & McKennan & Mr. Murthrie had spoken, I had to rush away in my motor car, and arrived 50 minutes later at Snug Rock when the Anvil Club was in session and were discussing the paper of Kelman: Gold production and prices. Mr. Holt of Moody's Magazine was a guest and participated naturally at the discussion.

[[end page]]

[[start page]]

17

But his views were not accepted by Hubbard. Butler ~~and~~ and C. F. Cox who opposed them very decidedly. Discussion finished after midnight.
Nov. 22 Morning 9:30 A.M. drove away to Hooker's in Connecticut. Very foggy weather which made driving slow and dangerous.
[[margin]]1 dayX[[margin]]
Met there Marsh & A.H. Hooker and our three kept conference all day until 8:30 P.M. discussing 4000 and 6000 Ampercell and other matters connected with the D. & F. Co.
Mr. E.H. Hooker was sick in bed. Celine joined in
[[end page]]



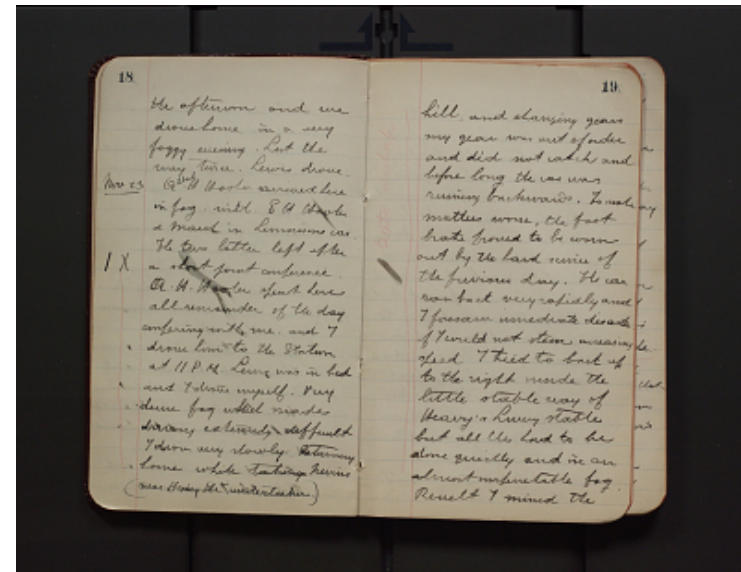
Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

the afternoon and we drove home in a very foggy evening. Lost the way twice. Lewis drove.

Nov 23 Albert H. Hooker arrived here in fog with E. H. Hooker & Marsh in Limousine car. The two latter left after a short joint conference.

1 X A. H. Hooker spent here all remainder of the day conferring with me and I drove him to the station at 11 P.M. Lewis was in bed and I drove myself. Very dense fog which made driving extremely difficult I drove very slowly. Returning home while taking Nevins (near Heavy the undertaker.)

19 auto misshap
 hill and changing gears my gear was out of order and did not catch and before long the car was running backwards. To make matters worse, the foot brake proved to be worn out by the hard service of the previous day. The car ran back very rapidly and I foresaw immediate disaster if I could not stem increasing speed. I tried to back up to the right under the little stable way of Heavy's Livery stable but all this had to be done quickly and in an almost impenetrable fog. Result I missed the



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
 Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
 Approved by Smithsonian Staff
 Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

roadway by about

two or three feet, backed in the large plate glass windows, which were entirely shattered and for which I expect a bill. The men employed by Heavy rushed down stairs and tried to comfort me with their expressions of regret but I regretted much more to put them all so much in discomfort. No other damage except a slight gash in rear tire. I felt lucky to be off with no serious injury and drove cautiously home.

Nov. 24. Visit of Mr. Garland of Ohio Brass Co who came

[[end page]]

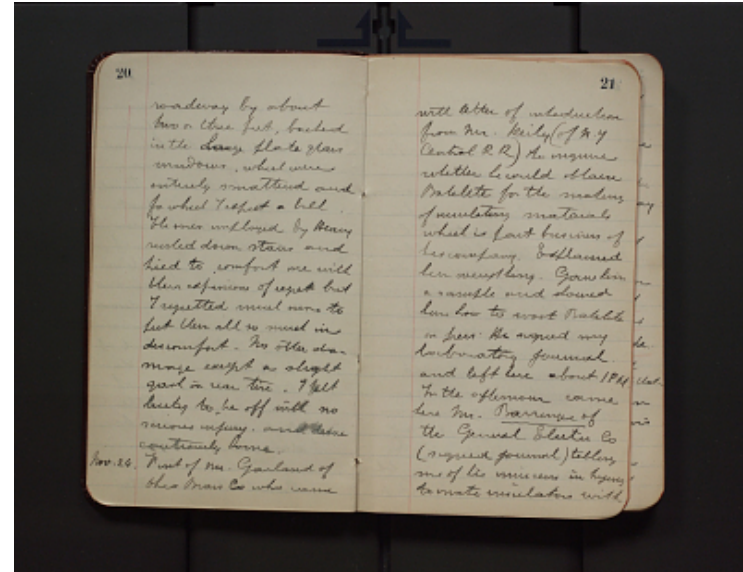
[[start page]]

with letter of introduction from Mr. Reily (of N. Y Central RR).

to inquire whether he could obtain Bakelite for the making of insulating materials which is part business of his company. Explained him everything. Gave him a sample and showed him how to work Bakelite on press. He signed my laboratory journal and left here about 1 P.M.

In the afternoon came here Mr. Barringer of the General Electric Co (signed journal) telling me of his successes in trying to make insulators with

[[end page]]



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

[[preprinted]] 22 [[/preprinted]]
 Bakelite. I explained him his mistakes gave him positive information for avoiding same in future. Made a molding before his eyes and he left here about 5:30 P.M.

[[margin]] Nov 25. [[/margin]] Dictated letters all morning. Lewis molding cylinders for Bache. (Self lubricating bearings)

[[margin]] very foggy day [[/margin]]

[[margin]] Nov 26 [[/margin]] Decided to build annex to my laboratory. Worked all day in lab. Bight, dry weather

[[margin]] Nov 27 [[/margin]] Thanksgiving day. Worked all day here.

[[margin]] Nov 28. [[/margin]] Went to N.Y. went to see Max Boch of to Cuba. Met there his family also Mr. Mnier his brother in law who is desirous of using Bakelite for

[[end page]]

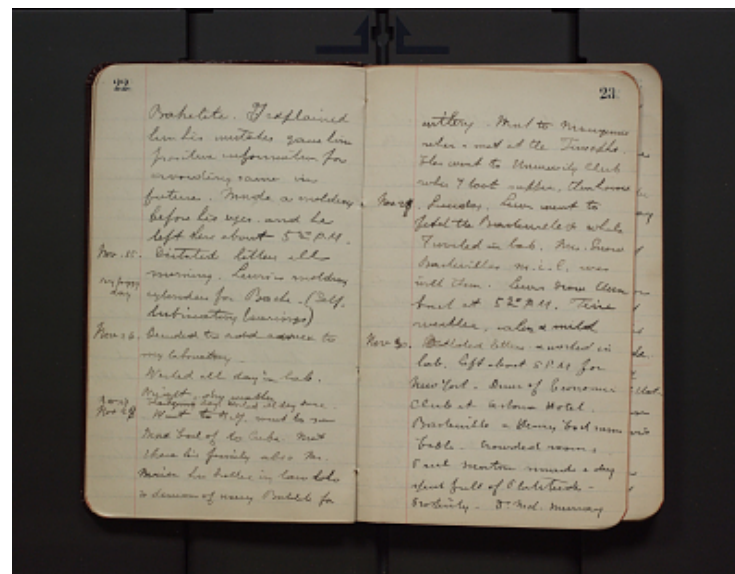
[[start page]]

[[preprinted]] 23 [[/preprinted]]
 cutlery. Went to Mougouin's where a met at the Fensophs. Then went to University Club where I took supper, then home

[[margin]] Nov 29. [[/margin]] Sunday. Lewis went to fetch the Baskervilles while I worked in lab. Mrs. Snow, Baskervilles m. i. l. was with them. Lewis drove them back at 5:30 P.M. Fine weather, calm & mild.

[[margin]] Nov 30. [[/margin]] Dictated letters & worked in lab. Left about 5 P.M. for New York. Dinner of Economic Club at Astoria Hotel. Baskville & Henry Toch same table. Crowded rooms Paul Morton made a dry speech full of Platitudes - Profanity Dr. Ned Murray

[[end page]]



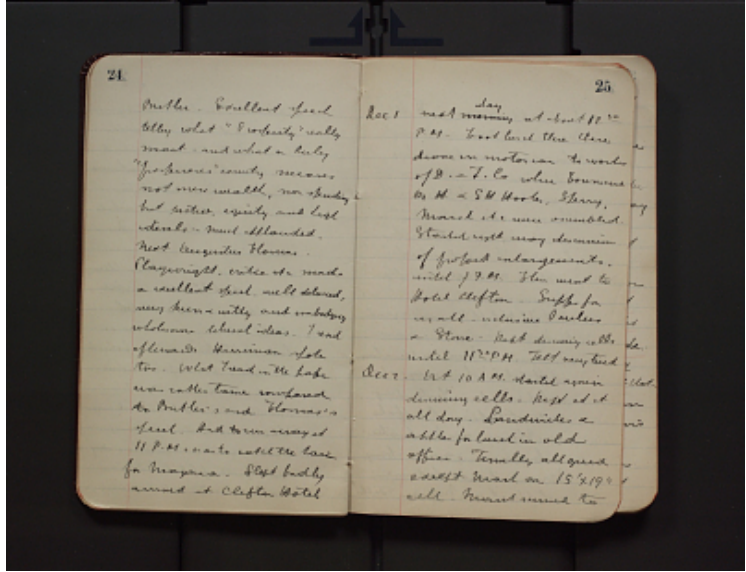
Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
 Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
 Approved by Smithsonian Staff
 Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

Butler - Excellent speech telling what "Prosperity" really meant - and what a truly "prosperous" country means not mere wealth, nor spending but justice, equity and high ideals -- much applauded. Next Augustus Thomas, Playwright, critic, etc made an excellent speech, well delivered, very keen & witty and embodying wholesome liberal ideas. I read afterward Harriman spoke too. What I read in the paper was rather tame compared to Butler's and Thomas's speech. Had to run away at 11 P.M. so as to catch the train for Niagara. Slept badly arrived at Clifton Hotel

[[end of page]]
[[start of page]]

Dec 1 next ~~morning~~ day at about 12:30 P.M. had lunch there then drove in motor car to works of D. & F. Co where Townsend, A H & E H Hooker, Sperry, Marsh etc were assembled. Started right away discussion of proposed enlargements, until 7 P.M. Then went to Hotel Clifton. Supper for us all inclusive Paulies & Stone. Kept discussing cells until 11:30 PM. Felt very tired
Dec 2. At 10 AM started again discussing cells. Kept at it all day. Sandwiches & apples for lunch in old office. Finally all approved except Marsh on 15' x 19" cell. Marsh seemed to

[[end of page]]



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
 Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
 Approved by Smithsonian Staff
 Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

feel rather sore. E H. Hooker was the only one who supported him on his 22 1/2" cell. Once in awhile Marsh lost his temper with Sperry and had some word scrimmage with him I agreed entirely with A H. Hooker and with Townsend. At 7 PM left there and went to Hotel. Everybody leaves Niagara. Took supper alone at Hotel. It is very cold cold wind. Yesterday water of lake in Buffalo was blown over breakwater in by waves causing spray. Man in train asked me whether it was Niagara Falls!

[[end page]]
[[start page]]

27

The morning spray of the falls had coated pavement and side walk in Niagara Falls so as to cause frosting and make it very slippery at 9:30 P M Brindley and Fitzgerald came to see me at the hotel and remained with me until 11 P.M. Brindley was just back from Japan. Went to bed at 11 P.M.

[[margin]]My opinion for most desirable cell is as follows:

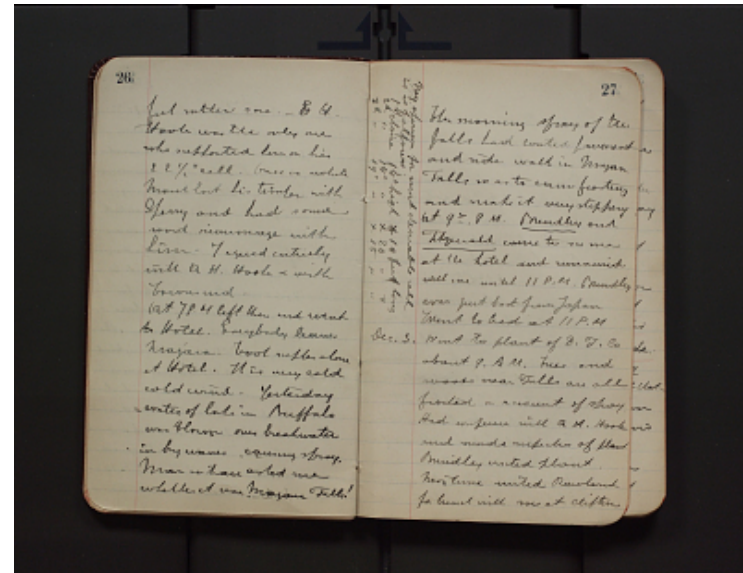
1st choice 14" high x 10 feet long

2nd " 14" " x 20 " "

3rd " 19" " x 15 " "[[margin]]

Dec. 3. Went to plant of D. F. Co about 9 AM. Trees and woods near Falls are all frosted on account of spray. Had conference with A H Hooker and made inspection of plant. Brindley visited plant. Noon time invited Rowland for lunch with me at Clifton

[[end page]]



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

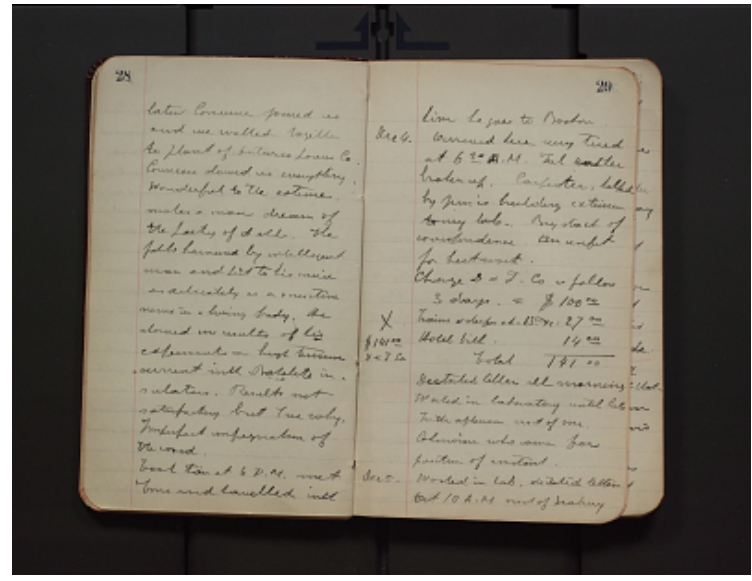
later Converse joined us and we walked together to plant of Ontario Power Co. Converse showed us everything. Wonderful to the extreme. makes a man dream of the poetry of it all. The falls harnessed by intelligent man and put to his service as definitely as a connective nerve in a living body. He showed me results of his experiments on high tension current with Bakelite insulators. Results not satisfactory but I see why. Imperfect impregnation of the wood.

Took train at 6 P.M. met Tone and travelled with

Dec 4. Arrived here very tired at 6:30 A.M. Feel rather broken up. Carpenter helped by Jim is building extension to my lab. Big stack of correspondence. Am unfit for best work.

Charge D. & F. Co. as follows:
 3 days = \$100.00
 Trains & sleeper etc. 13.50x2 27.00
 Hotel bill 14.00
 Total 141.00

Dictated letters all morning. Worked in laboratory until late in the afternoon. visit of Mr. Cohnviser who came for position of assistant. Dec 5. Worked in lab. dictated letters. At 10 A.M. visit of Seabury



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
 Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
 Approved by Smithsonian Staff
 Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

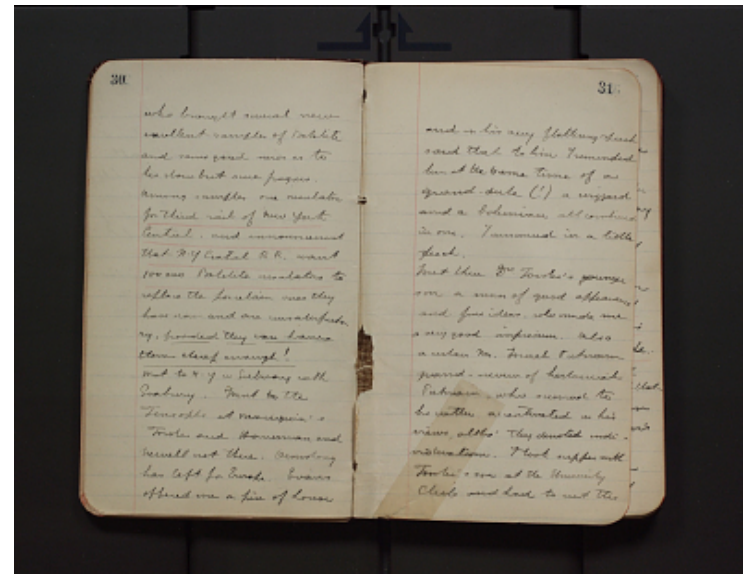
[[preprinted]] 30 [[/preprinted]]
who brought several new
excellent samples of Bakelite
and some good news as to
his slow but sure progress.
Among samples one insulator
for third rail in New York
Central. and announcement
that N.Y Central R R. want
100,000 Bakelite insulators
to replace the porcelain ones
they have now and are unsatisfactory,
provided they can have them
cheap enough!

Went to N.Y on Subway with
Seabury. Went to the Fensophs
at Mouquin's Forster and
Haneman and Newell not
there. Armstrong has left
for Europe. Evans offered me
a pin of honor

[[end page]]
[[start page]]

[[preprinted]] 31 [[/preprinted]]
and in his very flattering
speech said that to him I
reminded him at the same
time of a grand-duke(!) a
wizzard and a bohemian all
combined in one. I answered
in a little speech.

Met there Dr. Forster's
younger son a man of good
appearance and fine ideas.
who made me a very good
impression. Also a certain
Mr. Israel Putnam grand-
nephew of historical Putman,
who seemed to be rather
accentuated in his views,
altho' they denoted
individualism. I took
supper with Foster's son
at the University Club and
had to cut this



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

agreeable meeting so as to take train to Yonkers to meeting of Anvil Club at Ten Eyck's. Speaker was Stone, "Is Christianity on the wrong track" or something of the kind. Had still time to participate in discussion, which was a very lively one. and denoted in everybody present very liberal ideas.

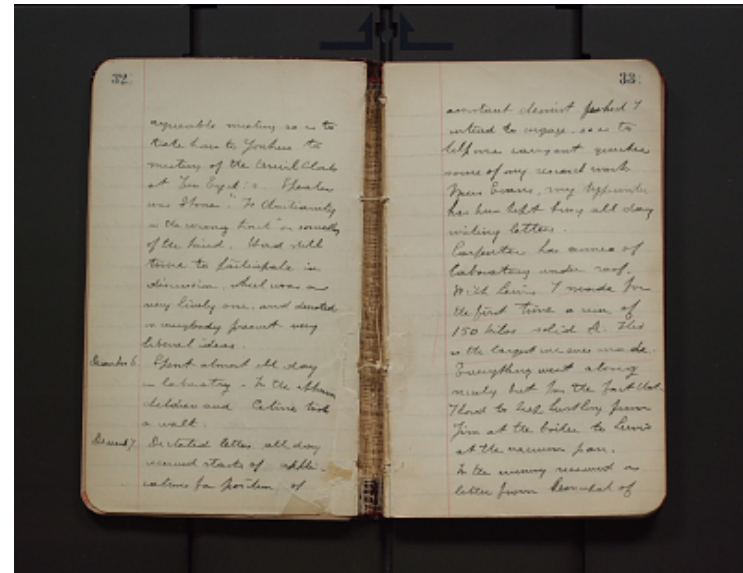
December 6. Spent almost all day in laboratory. In the afternoon children and Celine took a walk.

Decemb 7. Dictated letters all day. received stacks of applications for position of

assistant chemist

which I intend to engage so as to help me carry out quicker some of my research work. Mrs. Evans, my typewriter has been kept busy all day writing letters.

Carpenter has annex of laboratory under roof. With Lewis I made for the first time a run of 150 kilos solid A. This is the largest one ever made. Everything went along nicely but for the fact that I had to keep hustling from Jim at the boiler to Lewis at the vacuum pan. In the evening received a letter from principal of



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

[[preprinted]] 34 [[/preprinted]]
[[underlined]] George's school complaining that he does not take enough interest nor pains in some of his branches. [[underlined]] Arithmetics and grammar are his weak points in which he does not seem sufficiently interested. I had a friendly fatherly talk with him in my study room and hope this may do some good. If he only could feel some of the responsibilities and the ambition to better himself as I did when I was his age, a poor boy of very poor parents who felt that everything had to be done by himself

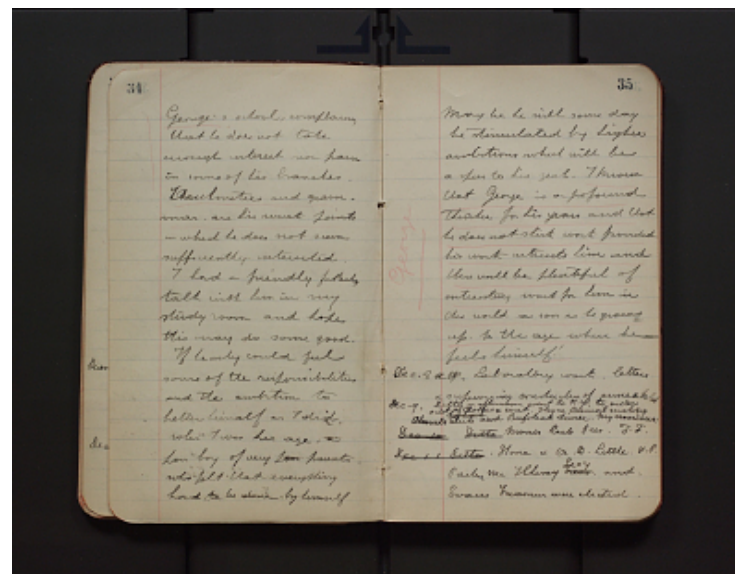
[[end page]]
[[start page]]

[[preprinted]] 35 [[/preprinted]]
Maybe he will some day be stimulated by higher ambitions which will be a spur to his zeal.

[[margin]] [[underlined]] George [[/underlined]]
[[underlined]] I know that George is a profound thinker for his years and that he does not shirk work provided his work interests him and there will be plentiful of interesting work for him in this world as soon as he grows up to the age where he feels himself! [[/underlined]]

[[margin]] Dec. 8 [[/margin]] ~~[[/margin]] & 9 [[/margin]]~~
Laboratory work, letters & supervising construction of annex to lab.
[[margin]] Dec. 9. [[/margin]] Ditto on afternoon went to N.Y. to order suit of clothes & coat. Thence Annual meeting ~~[[/margin]]~~ At lab ~~[[/margin]]~~ Chemists Club and Beefsteak dinner. My nominees: ~~[[/margin]]~~ Dec. 10 Ditto ~~[[/margin]]~~ Morris Loeb Pres. F.F. ~~[[/margin]]~~ Dec. 11 Ditto ~~[[/margin]]~~ Stone & A. D. Little V.P. Parker Mc Theney ~~[[/margin]]~~ Treas. ~~[[/margin]]~~ Sec'y and Evans Treasurer were elected.

[[end page]]



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

36
walked with Little to University Club, talking Townsend Cell and cellulose acetate, then he walked with me as far as 42d. st. and I took train home 12:30 A.M.

Dec. 10. Letters and laboratory work and supervising new construction.

Had interview in evening with Dr. Gothelf and engaged him as second assistant at \$100.00 per month. The man looks very bashful I hope he will pan out better as a chemist.

Dec. 11 Letters dictating and laboratory work. went to N.Y to meet at 5:45 P.M at Chemists Club, Wallace Cohoes of Toronto who wanted to

see me in regard to Townsend cell and also because his partner Van

Winetel had seen a sample of Bakelite (obtained through Rowler of Celluloid Co) and desired to obtain further information with view of utilizing same in Canada. I told him to let the matter rest for awhile until my patents were out.

Went with him to Savoy where we had dinner of Am. Chem. Soc. Whitaker & Miner of Welsbrook Light Co. were also my guests. Started the meeting at Chemists Club promptly at 8:15 P.M. First papers by Little = Lamb.

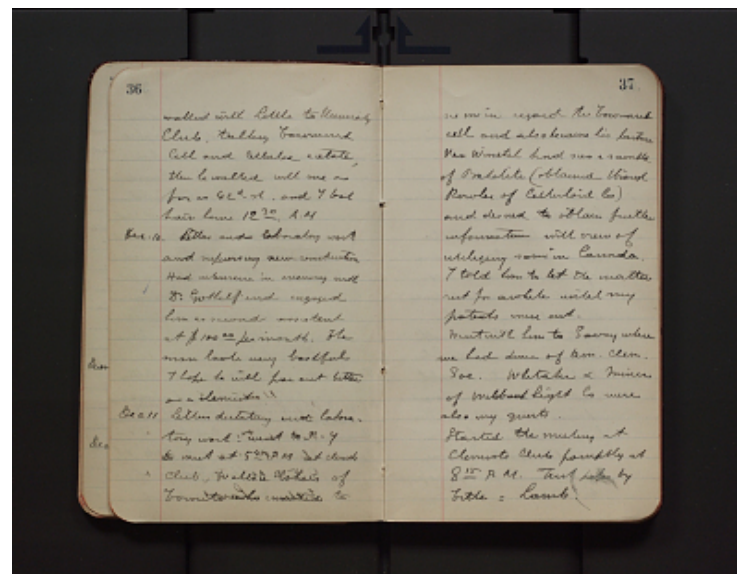
ended with Little to University Club, talking Townsend Cell and cellulose acetate, then he walked with me as far as 42d. st. and I took train home 12:30 A.M.

Dec. 12. Little and laboratory work and supervising new construction.

Had interview in evening with Dr. Gothelf and engaged him as second assistant at \$100.00 per month. The man looks very bashful I hope he will pan out better as a chemist.

Dec. 11. Little dictating and laboratory work. went to N.Y to meet at 5:45 P.M at Chemists Club, Wallace Cohoes of Toronto who wanted to see me in regard to Townsend cell and also because his partner Van Winetel had seen a sample of Bakelite (obtained through Rowler of Celluloid Co) and desired to obtain further information with view of utilizing same in Canada. I told him to let the matter rest for awhile until my patents were out.

Went with him to Savoy where we had dinner of Am. Chem. Soc. Whitaker & Miner of Welsbrook Light Co. were also my guests. Started the meeting at Chemists Club promptly at 8:15 P.M. First papers by Little = Lamb.



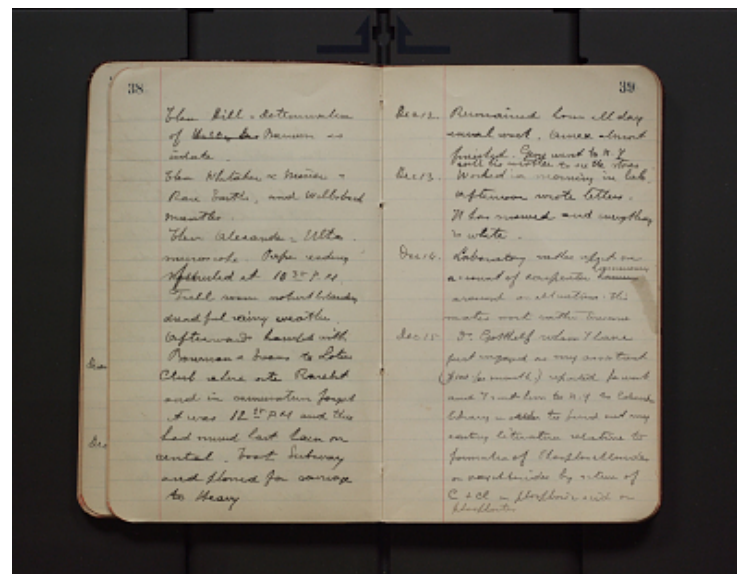
Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

[[preprinted]] 38 [[/preprinted]]
Then Hill = determination of ~~H₂SO₄ B~~
Barium as ~~[[indate?]]~~.
Then Whitaker & Miner = Rare Earths, and Welbsbach mantles.
Then Alexander = Ultra microscope. Paper reading finished at 10:35
P.M. Full room notwithstanding dreadful rainy weather. Afterwards
traveled with Bourman & Evans to Lotus Club where ate Rarebit and in
conversation forgot it was 12:35 P.M. and thus had missed last train on
central. Took Subway and phoned for carriage to Heavy

[[end page]]

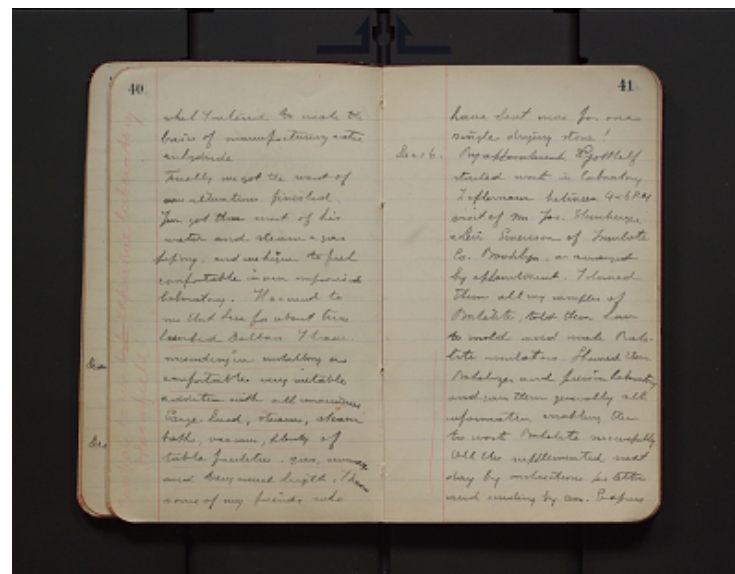
[[start page]]

[[preprinted]] 39 [[/preprinted]]
[[margin]] Dec 12. [[/margin]] Remained home all day usual work. annex
almost finished. George went to N.Y. with his mother to see the stores.
[[margin]] Dec 13. [[/margin]] Worked in morning in lab. afternoon wrote letters.
It has snowed and everything is white.
[[margin]] Dec 14. [[/margin]] Laboratory rather upset on account of
carpenter ~~hamer~~ hammering around on alterations. This makes work rather tiresome.
[[margin]] Dec 15. [[/margin]] Dr. Gothelf whom I have just engaged as
my assistant (\$100 per month) reported for work and I sent him to N.Y.
to Columbia library in order to find out any existing literature relative
to formation of phosphorchlorides on oxychlorides by action of C + Cl on
phosphoric acid or phosphates.



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

40
 compare to all ~~lab~~ expensive laboratory Bloomfield
 what I intend to make the basis of manufacturing acetic anhydride
 Finally we got the worst of our alterations finished. Jim got thru most of his water and steam & gas piping, and we begin to feel comfortable in our improvised laboratory. It occurred to me that here for about two hundred Dollars I have succeeded in installing a comfortable very suitable addition with all conveniences. Large hood, steam, steam baths, vacuum, plenty of table facilities, gas, sewage and very much light. I know some of my friends who
 have spent more for one single drying stove!
 Dec 16. ~~By appointment~~ Dr. Gotthelf started work in laboratory In afternoon between 4 & 6 P.M visit of Mr. Jos. Steinberger & Levi Swenson of Insulate Co. Brooklyn as arranged by appointment. I showed them all my samples of Bakelite, told them how to mold and make Bakelite insulators. Showed them Bakelizer and press in laboratory and gave them generally all information enabling them to work Bakelite successfully. All this supplemented next day by instructions per letter and sending by Am. Express



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
 Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
 Approved by Smithsonian Staff
 Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

42

several pounds of Solid A with instructions how to use it. They signed my laboratory journal.

[[symbol in margin dote with a circle around it]]

Bad leak of gas in house. Headaches. During night awakened with strong feeling of discomfort and nausea. ~~Did not som~~ ~~Went to bathroom it felt very warm. Felt queer and supposed I was going to vomit but before I knew it I fainted and dropped down on floor and hurt myself slightly on ear and left large toe while falling all this happened after I had lost consciousness and after I got again to my senses I was lying on floor and felt very comfortable~~

[[end page]]

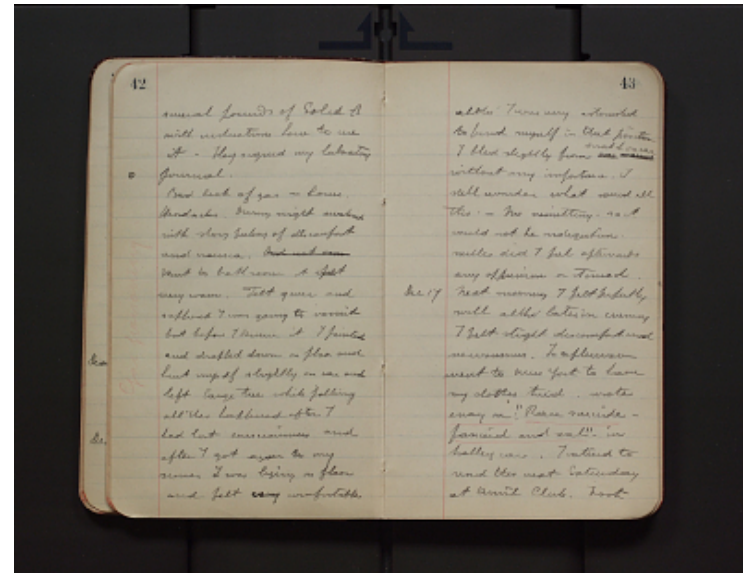
[[start page]]

43

altho' I was very astonished to find myself in that position. I bled slightly from ~~ear wound~~ scratch on ear without any importance. I still wonder what caused all this. - No vomiting so it could not be indigestion neither did I feel afterwards any oppression on stomach.

Dec 17 Next morning I felt perfectly well altho' later in evening I felt slight discomfort and nervousness. In afternoon went to New York to have my clothes tried. wrote essay on: "Race suicide - fancied and real" in trolley car. I intend to read this next Saturday at Anvil Club. Took

[[end page]]

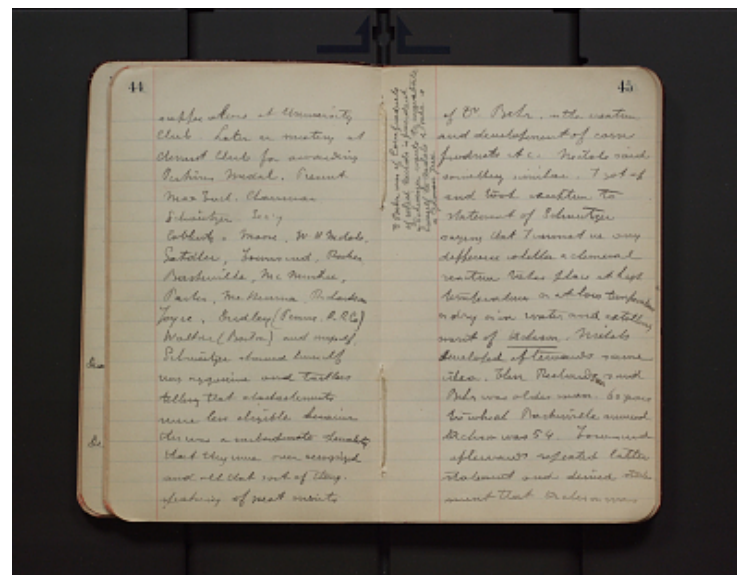


Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

[[preprinted]] 44 [[/preprinted]]
 supper alone at University Club. Later in meeting at
 Chemist Club for awarding Perkins Medal. Present Max Toch,
 Chairman Schweitzer. Sec'y Coblentz - Moore, W. H. Nichols, Sadtler,
 Townsend, Rocker, Baskerville, McMurtrie, Parker, McKenna,
 Richardson, Joyce, Dudley (Penn. R.R. Co) Walker (Boston) and
 myself. Schweitzer showed himself very aggressive and tactless telling
 that electrochemists were less eligible because there was a subordinate
 speciality that they were over recognized and all that sort of thing.
 speaking of great merits
 [[end page]]
 [[start page]]
 [[preprinted]] 45 [[/preprinted]]

[[margin]] Dr. Behr was of Corn products of which Nichols is president
 Schweitzer wants to ingratiate himself to Nichols & Behr is a German
 Jew [[margin]]

of Dr. Behr in the creation and development of corn products etc.
 Nichols said something similar. I got up and took exception to statement
 of Schweitzer saying that I cannot see any difference whether a
 chemical reaction takes place at high temperatures or at low
 temperatures or dry or in water and establishing merit of Acheson.
 Acheson. Nichols developed afterwards same idea.
 Then Richardson said Behr was older man. 60 years to which
 Baskerville answered Acheson was 54. Townsend afterwards repeated
 latter statement and denied statement that Acheson was
 [[end page]]



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
 Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
 Approved by Smithsonian Staff
 Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

still in the midst of his career. That A. had stated to himself that he had come to an age where he considered his further research work very doubtful. Finally vote was taken, Toch not voting result for Behr - 11

Acheson 9

Toch as chairman did not vote Schweitzer before, during and after the meeting showed by his utterances his usual lack of tact. I believe the vote was as follows:

For Acheson
Baskerville
Racher

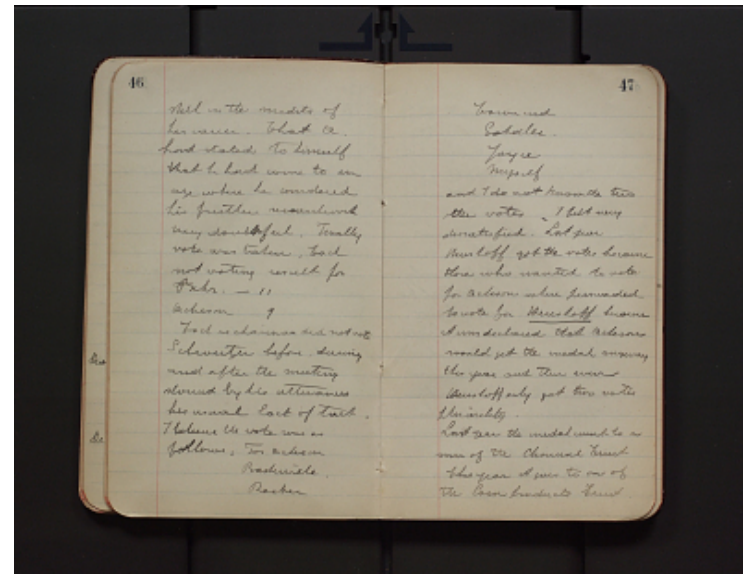
[[end page]]

[[start page]]

[[preprinted]] 47 [[/preprinted]]

Townsend
Satdler
Joyce
Myself

and I do not know the two other votes. I felt very dissatisfied. Last year Hereshoff got the votes because those who wanted to vote for Acheson where persuaded to vote for Hereshoff because it was declared that Acheson would get the medal anyway this year and then even Hereshoff only got two votes plurality. Last year the medal went to a man of the Chemical Trust this year it goes to one of the Corn Products Trust.



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

will it go next year to Trask? Then this will represent the Standard Oil Trust end of it!

When I came home it was snowing briskly.

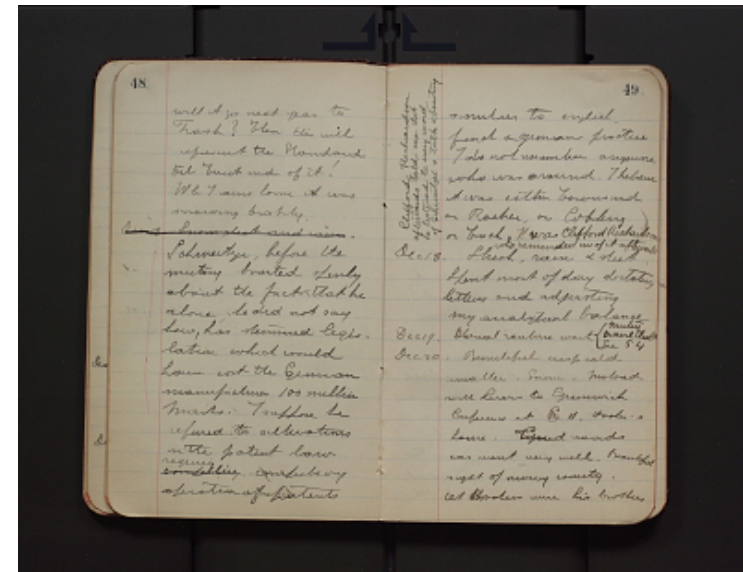
~~Dec 18~~ Snow sleet and rain.

Schweitzer before the meeting boasted openly about the fact that he alone, he did not say how, has ~~the~~ legislation which would have cost the German manufacturers 100 million marks. I suppose he referred to alterations in the patent law ~~compelling~~ requiring compulsory operation of patents

Dec 18. Slush, rain & sleet. Spent most of day dictating letters and adjusting my analytical balance

Dec 19. Usual routine work {meeting Anvil Club See 54

Dec 20. Beautiful crisp cold weather. Snow. Motored with Lewis to Greenwich Conference at E. H. Hooker's house. Good roads car went very well. Beautiful sight of snowy country. At Hooker's were his brothers



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
 Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
 Approved by Smithsonian Staff
 Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

50

A.H. & Willard, Townsend Sperry & Marsh. Spent all day discussing what size cell to adopt. Everybody agreed on the subject except Marsh who everytime voted against the rest. I once more proposed cell 14" high . 10' or 15' or 20' long and shed cell house but ~~?~~ had to drop my proposition because it was considered inexpedient to come back on our decisions. Much, much time has been lost in the discussion both by E.H. Hooker leading the discussion inexpedient channels and by A. H.

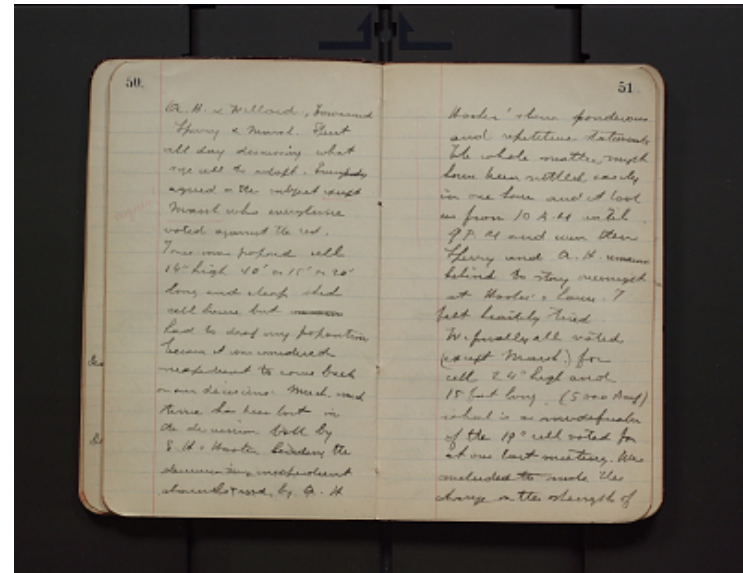
[[end page]]

[[start page]]

51

Hooker's slow ponderous and repetitive statements The whole matter might have been settled easily in one hour and it took us from 10 A.M until 9 P.M and even then Sperry and A. H. remained behind to stay overnight at Hooker's house. I felt heartily tired We finally all voted (except Marsh) for cell 24" high and 15 feet long (5000 Amp) which is a modification of the 19" cell voted for at our last meeting. We concluded to make this change on the strength of

[[end page]]



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

52

some very convincing data presented by A.H. and expressed neatly in curves which allow him to calculate at once initial voltage, time of renewal of diaphragms and final voltage for each length or height of cell for a known amperage. ~~At 9 P.M. were driven to~~ During the afternoon met Mr. Remington at Mr. Hooker's a fine intelligent looking man, who is a stock holder in D. & F. Co. and is President of a Company that makes foundations for structural buildings. He is the

[[end page]]

[[start page]]

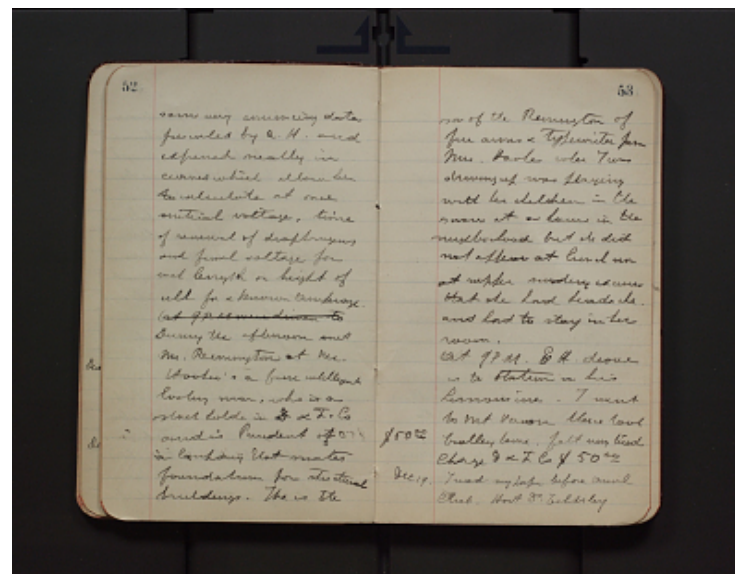
son of the Remington of fire arms and typewriter firm Mrs. Hooker when I was driving up was playing with her children in the snow at a house in the neighborhood but she did not appear at lunch nor at supper sending excuses that she had headache and had to stay in her room.

At 9 P.M. E. H. drove us to station in his limousine. I went to Mt. Vernon thence took trolley home. felt very tired Charge D. & F. Co. \$50.00.

[[marginal note]] \$50.00 [[end note]]

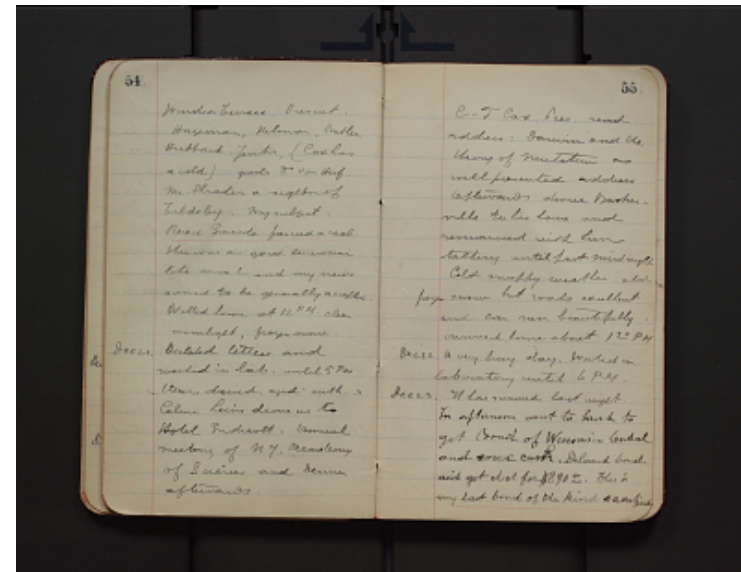
Dec. 19. I read my paper before Anvil Club. Host Dr. Tildsley

[[end page]]



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

[[preprinted]] 54 [[/preprinted]]
 Windsor Terrace. Present: Hagerman, Kelman, Butler, Hubbard. Jenks,
 (Cox has a cold) guests Dr. Von Herf, Mr Shroeder a neighbour of
 Tildsley. My subject: Race Suicide forced & real.
 There was a good discussion like usual and my views
 seemed to be generally accepted.
 Walked home at 12 P.M. clear moonlight, frozen snow.
 Dec 21. Dictated letters and worked in lab until 5
 PM Then dressed and with Celine Lewis drove us to Hotel Endicott.
 Annual meeting of N.Y. Academy of Sciences and Dinner afterwards.
 [[end page]]
 55
 C.F. Cox Pres.read address: Darwin and the theory of mutation a well
 presented address. Afterwards drove Baskerville to his home and
 remained with him talking until past midnight. Cold snappy weather. also
 frozen snow. but roads excellent and car ran beautifully. Arrived home
 about 1:30 PM.
 Dec. 22. A very bus day. Worked in Laboratory until 6 P.M.
 Dec. 23 It has snowed last night. In afternoon went to bank to get Bond
 of Wisconsin Central and some cash. Delivered bond and got check for
 \$890.00. This is my last bond of the kind sacrificed
 [[end page]]



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
 Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
 Approved by Smithsonian Staff
 Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

56

for the cause of Bakelite. Went to office of D.F.Co. met there a Mr. Johnson and Mr. Finley, both mining experts. Had a conversation with them on chlorination.

Charge 1/6 day. Went with Marsh to meet W.G. Smith, Gref's partner at Hotel Seville. All three walked to University Club, where we had dinner. Afterwards, I went to Chemists Club for meeting of trustees of N.Y. Section of A.C.S. Joyce, Lamb, Sherman and myself present. Met there Evans, we walked together to N.Y. Central Station.

Dec. 24. Worked in lab. all morning. Then Lewis

[[end page]]

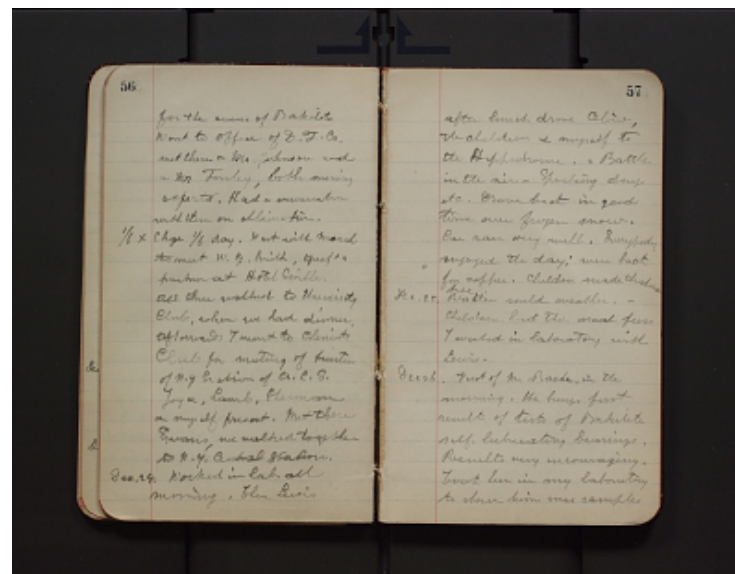
57

after lunch drove Celine, the children and myself to the Hippodrome. = Battle in the air - Sporting days. etc. Drove back in good time over frozen snow. Car ran well. Everybody enjoyed the day: were back for supper. Children made Christmas tree.

Dec. 25. Rather cold weather. - Children had their usual fuss. I worked in laboratory with Lewis.

Dec. 26. Visit of Mr. Bache in the morning. He brings first results of tests of Bakelite self lubricating bearing. Results very encouraging. Took in my my laboratory to show him more samples

[[end page]]



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

58

and how Bakelite is used.

Lewis reports front suspension spring of Motor Car broken: Sent him to Yonkers to have new one forged. Cost \$4.00. If this was some automobile concern instead of blacksmith, they certainly would charge me \$40.00.

Worked in laboratory [??] of day.

In afternoon drove up in his limousine from Greenwich Mr. McCargo of Pittsburgh. See his correspondence. Came to learn about Bakelite and see how he could use it in his business.

[[end page]]

[[start page]]

59

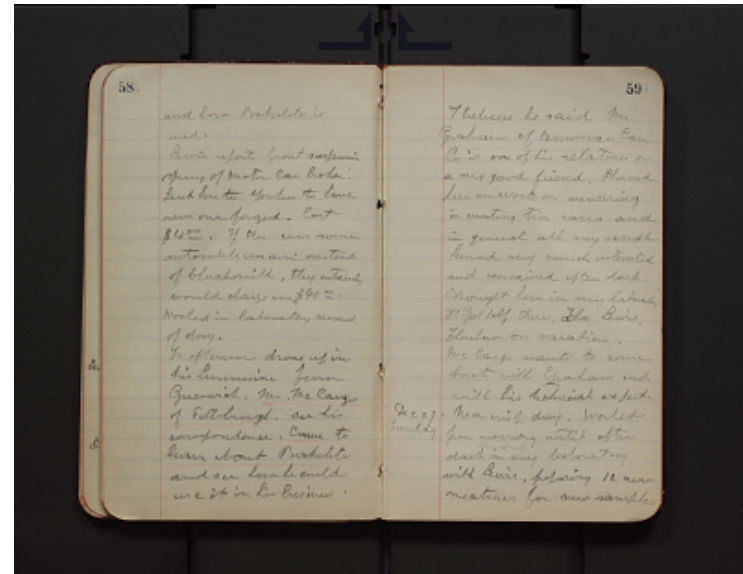
I believe he said Mr. Graham of American Can Co is one of his relatives or a very good friend. Showed him our work on veneering in creating tin cans and in general all my samples. Seemed very much interested and remained after dark. Brought him in my laboratory Dr. Gothelf there, also Lewis, Thurlow on vacation.

Mc Cargo wants to come back with Graham and with his technical expert.

Dec 27

Sunday Nice crisp day. Worked from morning until after dark in my laboratory with Lewis, preparing 12 new mixtures for new samples

[[end page]]



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

60
for Bakelite bearings.

Dec 28. Up early, much hustle and bustle, finishing some work in laboratory and dictating letters. Then at 12. M rushed off to New York for Baltimore Chg D & F. 1/3 day

1/3 x
for time today and yesterday relative comments on project for contemplated enlargement.

Caught Congressional Limited 3:44 P.M. from Jersey City for Baltimore met Pond on train also Dr. Hofman, Bogert's assistant This was ~~undoubtedly~~ certainly a much hurried forenoon.

Arrived in Baltimore at 7:33 PM

end page

start page

61

in time to take a hasty supper & attend Council meeting A.C.S.

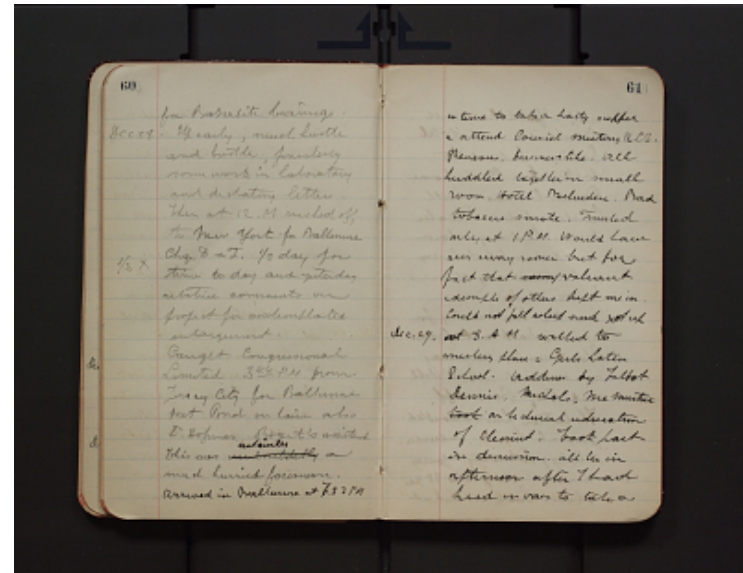
businesslike all huddled together in small room Hotel Belvedere.

Bad tobacco smoke. Finished only at 1 P.M. Would have run away sooner but for the fact that ~~exemp~~

valiant example of others kept me in. Could not fall asleep and got up at 8 A.M. walked to meeting place = Girls Latin School. Address by Talbot

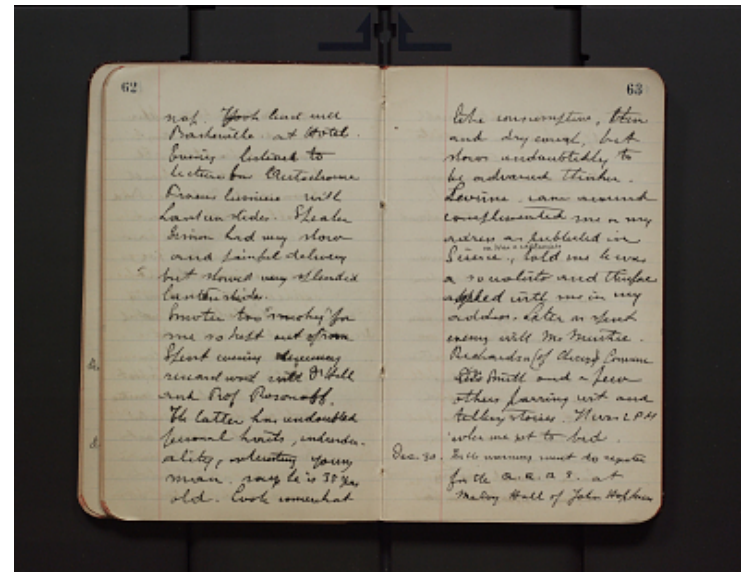
Dennis, Nichols, McMurtrie ~~took~~ on technical education of Chemist. Took part in discussion. all in afternoon after I had tried in vain to take a

end page



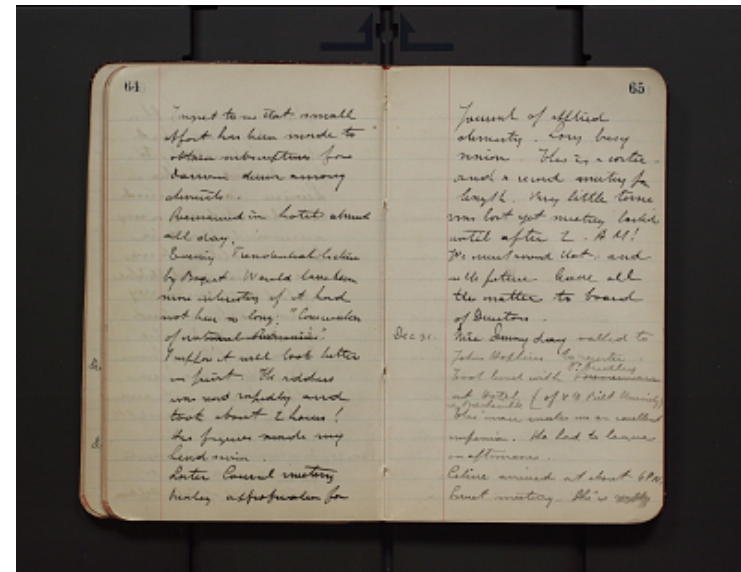
Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

[[preprinted]] 62 [[/preprinted]]
 nap. Took lunch with Baskerville at Hotel. Evening listened to
 lecture on Autochrome Frames Lumiere with lantern slides. Speaker
 Simon had very slow and painful delivery but showed ~~very~~
 very splendid lantern slides. Smoker too "smoky" for
 me so kept out of room. Spent evening discussing research work with Dr
 Hill and Prof Rosonoff.
 The latter has undoubted personal traits, individuality,
 interesting young man. says he is 35 years old. Look somewhat
 [[end page]]
 [[start page]]
 [[preprinted]] 63 [[/preprinted]]
 like consumptive, thin and dry cough, but shows undoubtedly to
 be advanced thinker.
 Levine came around complimented me on my address as published in
 Science., ~~[[insertion]]~~ on War and explosives ~~[[insertion]]~~ told me he was
 a socialist and therefore agreed with me in my address. Later on spent
 evening with McMurtrie.
 Richardson (of Chicago) ~~[[Converse?]]~~ Dr Smith and a few others
 pairing wit and telling stories. It was 2 P.M. when we got to bed.
 [[margin]] Dec. 30 ~~[[/margin]]~~ In the morning went to register for the
 A.A.A.S. at Melvay Hall of John Hopkins ~~[[end page]]~~



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
 Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
 Approved by Smithsonian Staff
 Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

64
 I regret to see that small effort has been made to obtain subscriptions for Darwin dinner among chemists. Remained in hotel almost all day. Evening Presidential lecture by Bogart. Would have been more interesting if it had not been so long. "Conservation of natural Resources."
 I suppose it will look better in print. The address was read rapidly and took about 2 hours!
 His figures made my head swim.
 Later Council meeting appropriation for
 65
 Journal of Applied Chemistry. Long busy session. This is a [coster?] and a second meeting for length. Very little time was lost yet meeting lasted until after 2. A M! We must avoid that: and in the future leave all these matters to board of Directors.
 Dec. 31 Nice Sunny day walked to Johns Hopkins to register. Took lunch with ~~Dr. Dudley~~ Dr. Dudley at Hotel (of V. D Bilt University) & Baskerville
 This man makes me an excellent impression. He had to leave on afternoon.
 Celine arrived at about 6 PM. Sweet meeting. She is really



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
 Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
 Approved by Smithsonian Staff
 Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

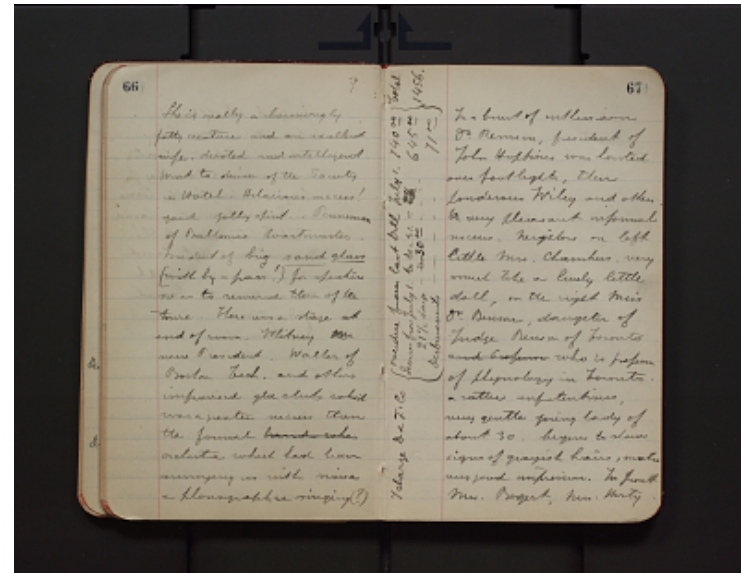
66 She is really a charmingly pretty creature and an excellent wife, devoted and intelligent. Went to dinner of the Society in Hotel. Hilarious success! good jolly spirit. Penneman of Baltimore toastmaster of big sand glass (with by - pass!) for speakers so as to remind them of the time. There was a stage at end of room. Whitney our new President. Walker of Boston Tech. and others improvised glee club which was a greater success than the formal band whi orchestra which had been annoying us with noise & phonographic singing (?)

end page

start page

67 In a burst of enthusiasm Dr. Remsen, president of John Hopkins was hoisted over footlights, then ponderous Wiley and others. a very pleasant informal success. Neighbors on left little Mrs. Chambers. very much like a lively little doll, on the right Miss Dr. Benson, daughter of Judge Benson of Toronto and Professor who is professor of physiology in Toronto. a rather unpretentious, very gentle young lady of about 30. begins to show signs of grayish hairs, makes very good impressions. In front Mrs. Bogert, Mr. Herty

I charge D & F. Co {overdue from last bill July 1, 740.00
 Levies from July 1 to dec. 31 =
 21 1/2 days - as 30.00 - - - 645.00
 Disbursements - - - - - 71.00} total 1456.



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
 Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
 Approved by Smithsonian Staff
 Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

[[preprinted]] 68 [[/preprinted]]

[[margin]] ~~I charged to D. & F Co 16 1/2 days x 30 - 495.00 for services There is still 740.00 overdue. 71.00 for disbursements~~ ~~[[/margin]]~~
Paid in full later on [[/margin]]

Dinner finished shortly before midnight. Then Celine and myself went to grill room, where we were joined by Baskerville, Bancroft, Lurk Miller, Wheeler of ~~R~~ Providence, (the same man whose acquaintance I made 18 years ago on the steamer which brought me to this happy land) & Dr. Comey. We took some refreshments and remained until 1 P.M.

~~Jan~~ The hotel restaurants were filled with people for celebrating New Year.

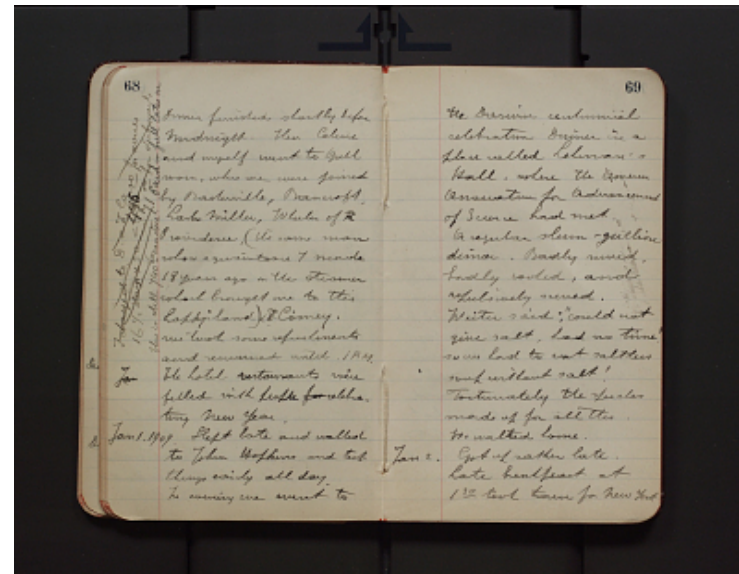
Jan 1, 1909. Slept late and walked to Johns Hopkins and took things easily all day. In evening we went to

[[start page]]
[[preprinted]] 69 [[/preprinted]]

the Darwin centennial celebration dinner in a place called Lehman's Hall, where the American Association for Advancement of Science had met.

A regular slum-gullion dinner. Badly served, badly cooked, and repulsively served. Waiter said: "could not give salt, had no time! so we had to eat saltless soup without salt! Fortunately the speeches made up for all this. We walked home.

Jan 2. Got up rather late. Late breakfast at 1:30 took train for New York
[[end page]]



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

[[preprinted]] 70 [[/preprinted]]
Lunch with Celine at Belmont Hotel. Arrived in Yonkers in time to participate in discussions of Anvil Club. assembled at Miss Wadsworth's. Paper of evening, Dr. Tildsley: "Is restriction of ~~trade~~ production warranted?" He took positive view defending labor unions. Arrived home after 12 P.M.

[[margin]] Jan 3. [[/margin]] Sunday. Spent all day in laboratory with Lewis

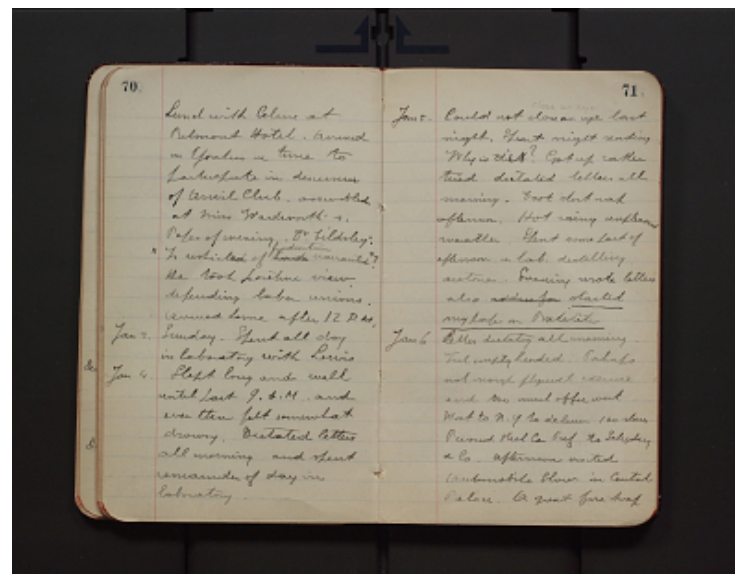
[[margin]] Jan 4. [[/margin]] Slept long and well until past 9. A.M. and even then felt somewhat drowsy. Dictated letters all morning and spent remainder of day in laboratory

[[end page]]

[[start page]]
[[preprinted]] 71 [[/preprinted]]

[[margin]] Jan 5. [[/margin]] Could not close an eye ~~close an eye~~ last night. Spent night reading Why is this? Got up rather tired dictated letters all morning. Took short nap afternoon. Hot rainy unpleasant weather. Spent some part of afternoon in lab distilling acetone. Evening wrote letters also. ~~address for~~ started my paper on Bakelite

[[margin]] Jan 6 [[/margin]] Letter dictating all morning Feel empty headed. Perhaps not enough physical exercise and too much office work Went to N.Y to deliver 100 shares Pressed Steel Car Pref. to Selysberg & Co. Afternoon visited Automobile show in Central Palace. A great fire-haz
[[end page]]



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

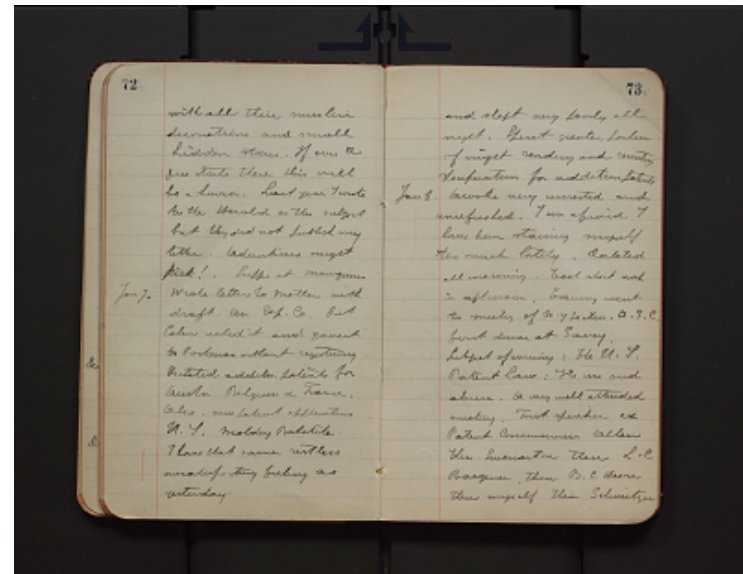
[[preprinted]] 72 [[/preprinted]]
with all their muslin decorations and small hidden stairs. If ever a fire starts there this will be a horror. Last year I wrote to the Herald on the subject but they did not publish my letter. Advertisers might kick! Supper at Mouquins

[[margin]] Jan 7. [[/margin]] Wrote letter to mother with draft. Am. Exp. Co. but Celine sealed it and gave it to Postman without registering. Dictated additional patents for Austria Belgium & France. Also. new patent applications N.Y. molding Bakelite. I have that same restless unsatisfactory feeling as yesterday.

[[end page]]
[[start page]]

[[preprinted]] 73 [[/preprinted]]
and slept very poorly all night. Spent greater portion of night reading and rewriting specifications for addition patents
[[margin]] Jan 8. [[/margin]] Awoke very unrested and unrefreshed. I am afraid I have been straining myself too much lately. Dictated all morning. Took short nap in afternoon. Evening went to meeting of N.Y. Section, A.S.C. [[A.C.S.]] first dinner at Savoy. Subject of evening: The U. S. Patent Law: Its use and abuse A very well attended meeting. First speaker is Patent Commissioner Allen. Then Swenorton? then L. C. Raegener?, then B. C. Hesne? then myself then Schweitzer

[[end page]]



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

[[preprinted]] 74 [[/preprinted]]
but the star of the evening was Reaequer who made a self confession and exposed all the tricks of lawyers in patent litigation and showed how an otherwise excellent patent law was crippled since the Supreme Court refers all matters to a circuit judge. I hope all this will be published and may influence favorable legislation which will do away with this abuse. The evening was a great success and I believe that in arranging this symposium I did good work for all chemists and inventors.

I shall write to congressman

[[end page]]

[[start page]]

[[preprinted]] 75 [[/preprinted]]

John E. Andrus, to urge him to ~~uphold~~ help favorable patent litigation. Came home with Evans and Rebman but missed last trolley car of Park Avenue and had to go to Havey's so as to order Brougham.

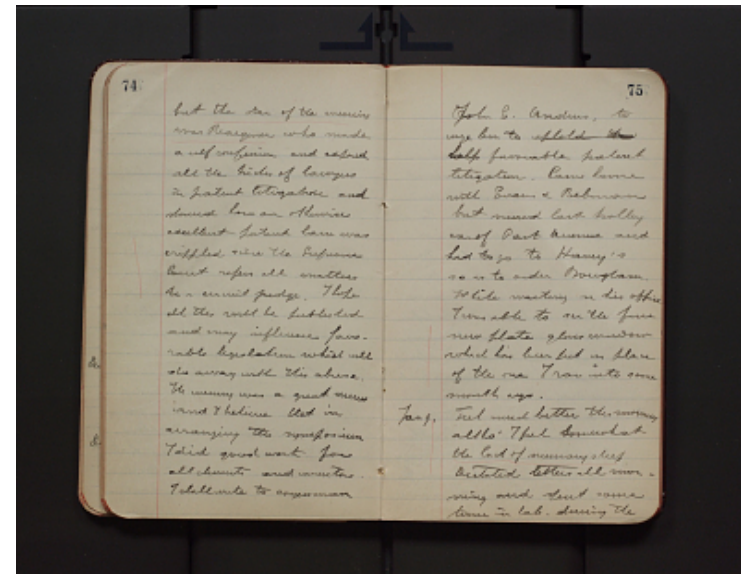
While waiting in his office I was able to see the fine new plate glass window which has been put in place of the one I ran into some months ago.

[[/line along left margin]]

[[margin]] Jan 9. [[/margin]]

[[red line along left margin]]

Feel much better this morning altho' I feel somewhat the lack of necessary sleep. Dictated letters all morning and spent some time in lab. during the



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

[[preprinted]] 76 [[/preprinted]]
afternoon.

Went to bed early and awoke after good night's

[[margin]] Jan. 10. [[/margin]] sleep thoroughly refreshed. Foggy damp day. In the [[margin]] ~~Jan 11.~~ [[/margin]] evening went to supper to Dr. Morris Loeb's with motor car. Met there Mr. and Mrs. Peck and a certain Mr. Harris and a young lady violinist who performed afterwards in a most successful way. Simple informal supper. Drove home about 11 P.M.

[[margin]] Jan 11. [[/margin]] A busy day, dictating then visit of Mr. Babb, the chemist of Mr. McCargo of Pittsburg who came from Mr. McCargo to inquire

[[end page]]

[[start page]]

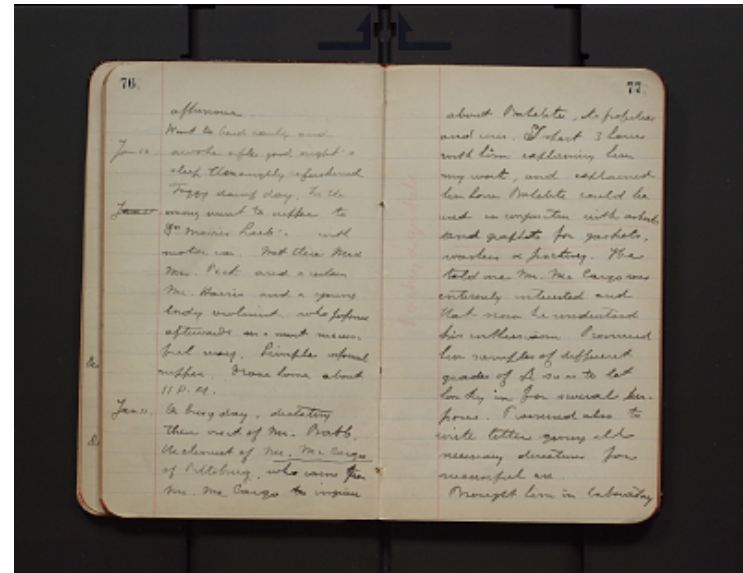
[[preprinted]] 77 [[/preprinted]]

about Bakelite, its properties and uses. I spent 3 hours with him explaining him my work, and explained him how Bakelite could be used in conjunction with asbestos and graphite for gaskets, washers & packing.

[[margin]] packing & gaskets [[/margin]]

He told me Mr. McCargo was entirely interested and that now he understood his enthusiasm. Promised him samples of different grades of A so as to let him try in for several purposes. Promised also to write letter giving all necessary directions for successful use.

Brought him in laboratory



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

[[preprinted]] 78 [[/preprinted]]

Lewis, Jim, Burlow and Gotthelf present. In the afternoon had visit of Seabury who reported about his trip to Niagara Falls and how Cox, Max Marman, Lislebury?, Carneth, Acheson, Converse and others for whom I had given him letters of introduction had shown unusual interest towards Bakelite and his samples.

At 7 P.M Lewis drove me to Prof. Chandler's house where I met Loeb, Mc Murtrie and Toch relative financing of our new chemists club building.

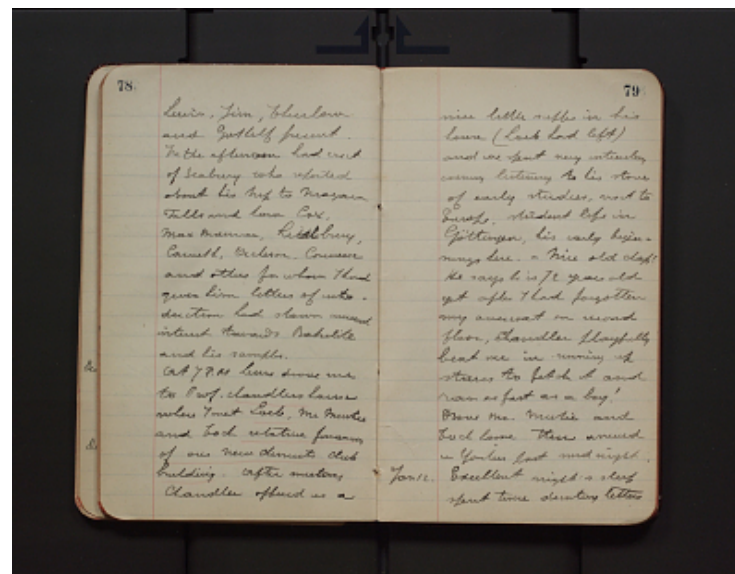
After meeting Chandler offered us a

[[end page]]

[[start page]]

[[preprinted]] 79 [[/preprinted]]

nice little supper in his house (Loeb had left) and we spent very interesting evening listening to his stories of early studies, visit to Europe, student life in Göttingen, his early beginnings here. - Nice old chap! He says he is 72 years old yet after I had forgotten my overcoat on second floor, Chandler playfully beat me in running up stairs to fetch it and ran as fast as a boy! Drove Mc Murtrie and Toch home then arrived in Yonkers past midnight
[[margin]] Jan 12. [[/margin]] Excellent night's sleep spent time [dicating?] letters

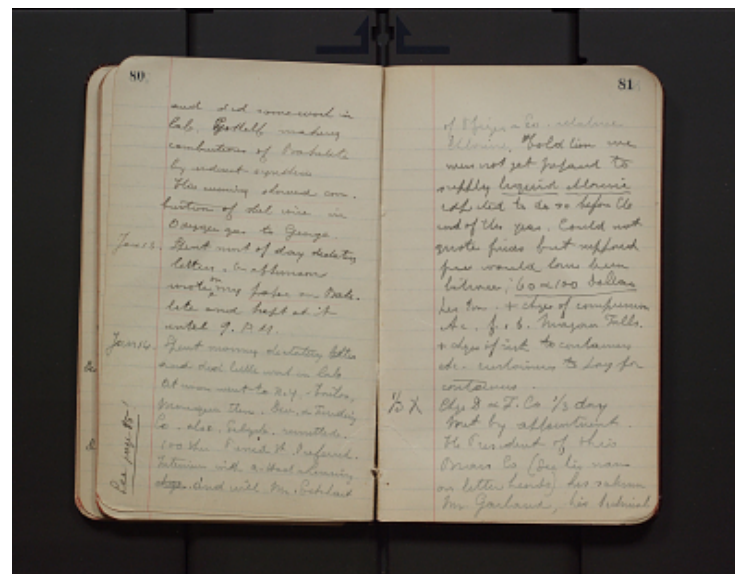


Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

80
and did some work in lab. Gotself making combustions of Bakelite by indirect synthesis. This evening showed combustion of steel wire in Oxygen gas to George.
Jan 13. Spent most of day dictating letters. In afternoon wrote [^] on my paper on Bakelite and kept at it until 9 P.M.
Jan 14. Spent morning dictating letter and did little work in lab At noon went to N.Y. - Tailor, Mouquin then. Dev & Funding Co. also. Selysbe remitted. 100 shr St. Preferred. Interview with A. Hook & Lansing ~~chge~~ and with Mr. Eckhart
See page 85!
[[end page]]
[[start page]]

81

of Obiger? Co. relative Chlorine. Told him we were not yet prepared to supply liquid chlorine expected to do so before the end of the year. Could not quote prices but supposed price would have been between; 60 & 100 dollars per ton + chges of compression
Ac. f. b Niagara Falls. + chges if risk to containers etc. customers to pay for containers.
1/3 X Chge D & F. Co 1/3 day Met by appointment the President of Ohio Brass Co (see his name on letter heads) his salesman Mr. Garland, his technical

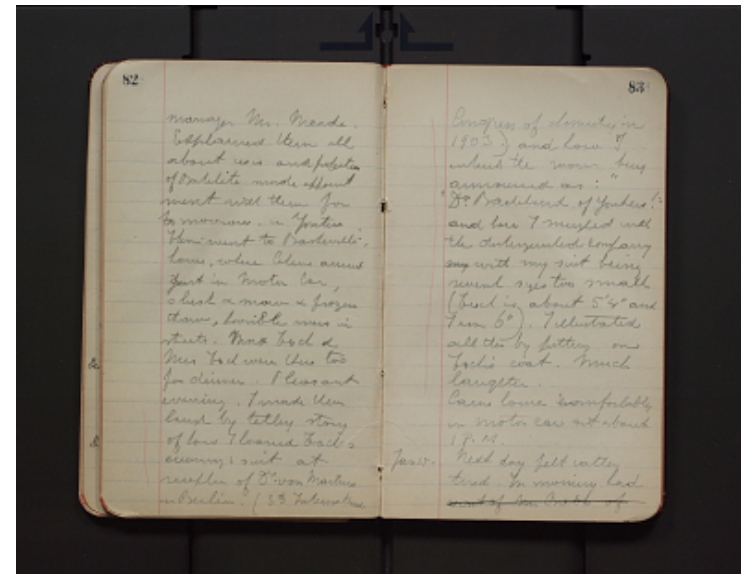


Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

manager Mr. Meade. Explained them all about uses and properties of Bakelite made appointment with them for tomorrow in Yonkers. Then went to Baskerville's house, where Celine arrived just in motor car, slush & snow & frozen thaw, horrible mess in streets. Max Toch & Mrs. Toch were there too for dinner. Pleasant evening. I made them laugh by telling story of how I loaned Toch's evening's suit at reception of Dr. von Martins in Berlin (3rd International

[[end page]]
[[start page]]

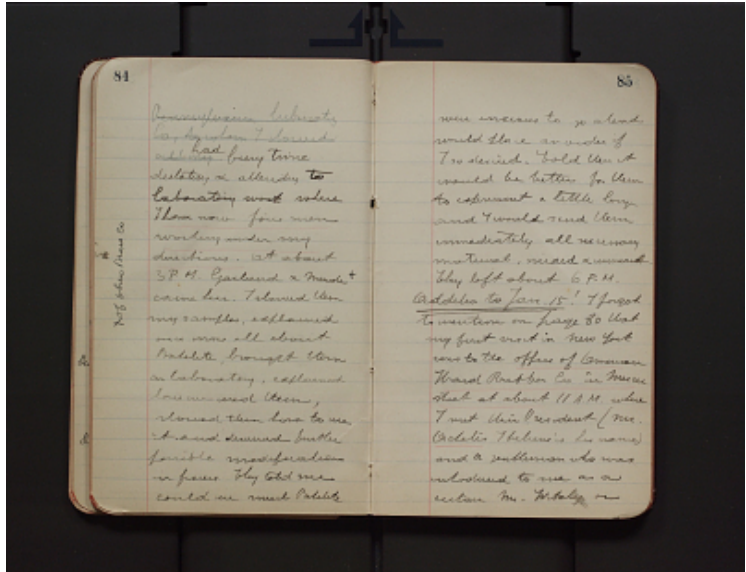
Congress of chemistry in 1903) and how I entered the room being announced as: "Dr. Baekeland of Yonkers!" and how I mingled with the distinguished company ~~my~~ with my suit being several sizes too small (Toch is about 5'4" and I am 6"). I illustrated all this by putting on Toch's coat. Much laughter. Came home comfortably in motor car at about 1 P.M.
Jan 15. Next day felt rather tired. In morning had ~~visit of Mr. Crabb of~~



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

84
~~Pennsylvania~~ lubricating Co, to whom I showed
all my ~~busy time~~ dictating
and attending to laboratory work where I have now four
men working under my directions. At about 3 P.M.
Garland & Mende +
x of Ohio Brass Co
came here. I showed them my samples, explained once more all about
Bakelite, brought them in laboratory, explained how we used them,
showed them how to use it and discussed further possible modifications
in process. They told me could use much Bakelite
end page

85
were anxious to go ahead would place an order if I so desired. Told
them it would be better for them to experiment a little longer and I would
send them immediately all necessary material, mixed and unmixed.
They left about 6 P.M.
Addenda to Jan 15! I forgot to mention on
page 80 that my first visit to New York was to the office of
American Hard Rubber Co in Mercer street at about 11
A.M. where I met their President (Mr. Achelis
I believe is his name) and a gentleman who was
introduced to me as a certain Mr. Witely or
end page



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
 Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
 Approved by Smithsonian Staff
 Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

86
Whitney or some similar name. Mr. Achelis told me he was technically very well posted. (i.e. Mr. W. was posted). Mr. Achelis has whiskers and glasses. Mr. W. has a smooth shaven fallow yellowish face, pale eyes and a scar on the forehead under the scalp. I explained to these gentlemen my Bakelite process and how Bakelite could be used for their purposes. They listened very eagerly and it was about 1 P.M. when I left their office. Mr. A. seemed very courteous and polite. I promised

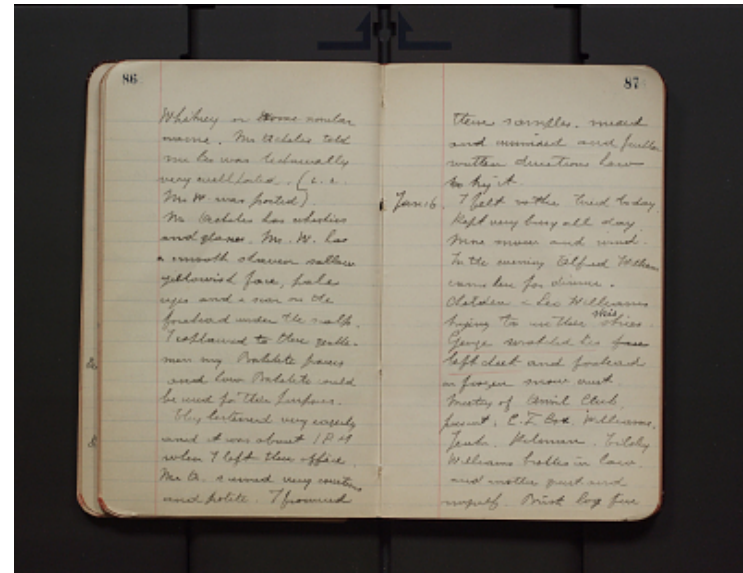
[[end page]]

[[start page]]
87

them samples, mixed and unmixed and further written instructions how to try it.

Jan 16. I felt rather tired today. Kept very busy all day. More snow and wind. In the evening Alfred Williams came here for dinner. Children & Leo Williams trying to use their skis

skies.
George scratched his ~~face~~ left cheek and forehead on frozen snow crust. Meeting of Anvil Club, present: C. T. Cos, Williams, Jenks, Kelman, Tilsley?, Williams brother in law and another guest and myself. Brisk log fire



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

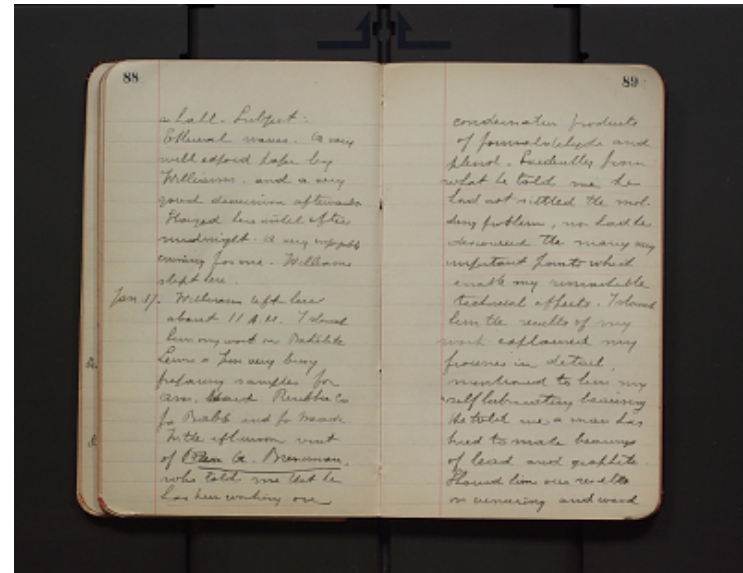
88
in hall. Subject: Ethereal waves. A very well explored paper by Williams. and a very good discussion afterwards. Stayed here until after midnight. A very enjoyable evening for me. Williams slept here.

Jan. 17. Williams left here about 11 A.M. I showed him my work on Bakelite. Lewis & Jim very busy preparing samples for Am. Hard Rubber Co for Babb and for Meade.

In the afternoon visit of Glen? A. Breneman, who told me that he has been working on

condensation products
of formaldehyde and phenol. Evidently from

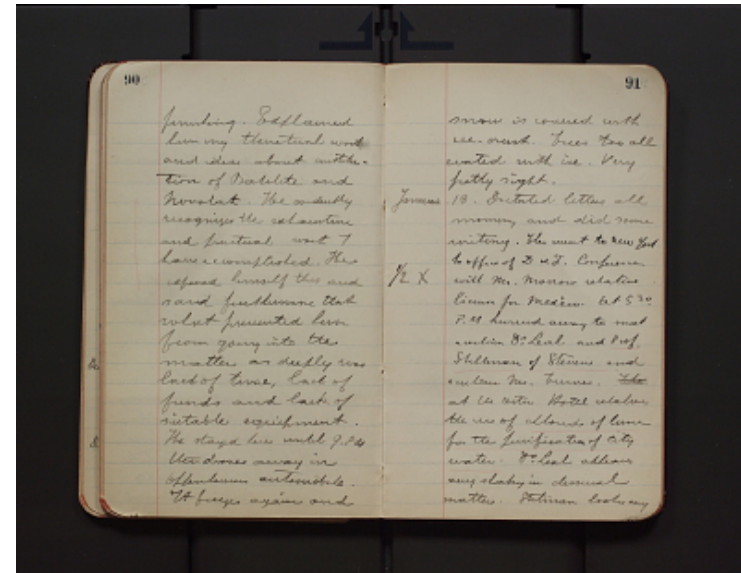
what he told me he had not settled the molding problem, nor had he discovered the many very important points which enable my remarkable technical effects. I showed him the results of my work explained my process in detail, mentioned to him my self lubricating bearing He told me a man has tried to make bearings of lead and graphite. Showed him our results on veneering and wood



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

[[preprinted]] 90 [[/preprinted]]
finishing. Explained him my theoretical work and ideas about constitution of Bakelite and Novolak. He evidently recognises the exhaustive and practical work I have accomplished. He expressed himself thus and said furthermore that what prevented him from going into the matter as deeply was lack of time, lack of funds and lack of suitable equipment.
He stayed here until 9 P.M. then drove away in Oppenheimers automobile. It freezes again and

[[end page]]
[[start page]]
[[preprinted]] 91 [[/preprinted]]
snow is covered with ice-crust. Trees too all coated with ice. Very pretty sight.
[[margin]] Januar [[/margin]] 18. Dictated letters all morning and did some writing. Then went to New York to office of D & F. Conference
[[margin]] 1/2 x [[/margin]]
with Mr. Morrow relative license for Mexico. At 5.30 P.M hurried away to meet a certain Dr. Leah and Prof. Stillman of Stevens and a certain Mr. Turner. ~~The~~ at the Astor Hotel relative the use of chloride of lime for the purification of City water. Dr. Leah appears very shaky in chemical matters. Stillman looks very



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

[[preprinted]] 92 [[/preprinted]]

old and professorlike.

At 6:15 Dinner of the Economic Club. Subject Trade Unions. Speakers. Garfield, Pres. of Williams College, then Mr. ? head of Brotherhood locomotive engineers then Littlefield a lawyer formerly Member of Congress. Then Keir Hardie socialist member of Parliament England and some others. E. H. Hooker was there so was Baskerville. Very crowded room, speakers generally not so good as on former occasions. Hardie

[[end page]]

[[start page]]

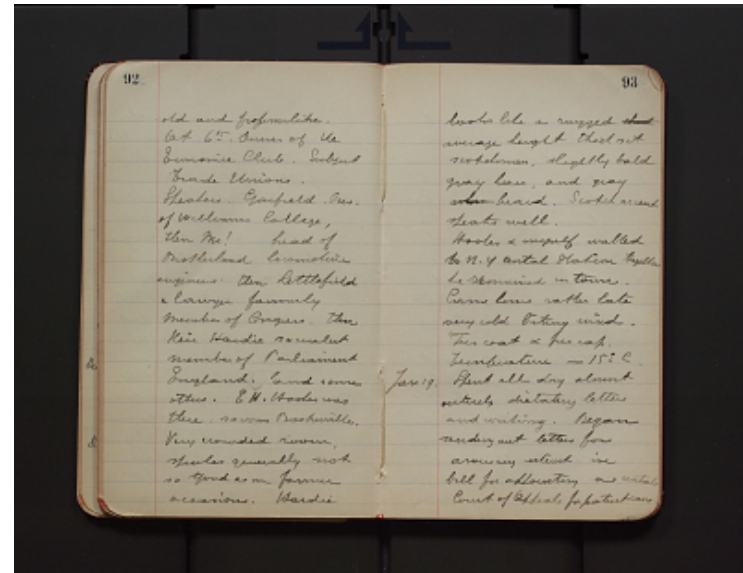
[[preprinted]] 93 [[/preprinted]]

looks like a rugged ~~short~~ average height thick set scotchman, slightly bald gray hair, and gray ~~whis~~ beard. Scotch accent Speaks well.

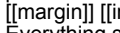
Hooker & myself walked to N.Y. Central Station together. He remained in town. Came home rather late very cold biting wind. Fur coat & fur cap. Temperature -15 C.

[[margin]] Jan 19. [[/margin]] Spent all day almost entirely dictating letters and writing. Began sending out letters for arousing interest in bill for appointing a central Court of Appeals for Patent cases.

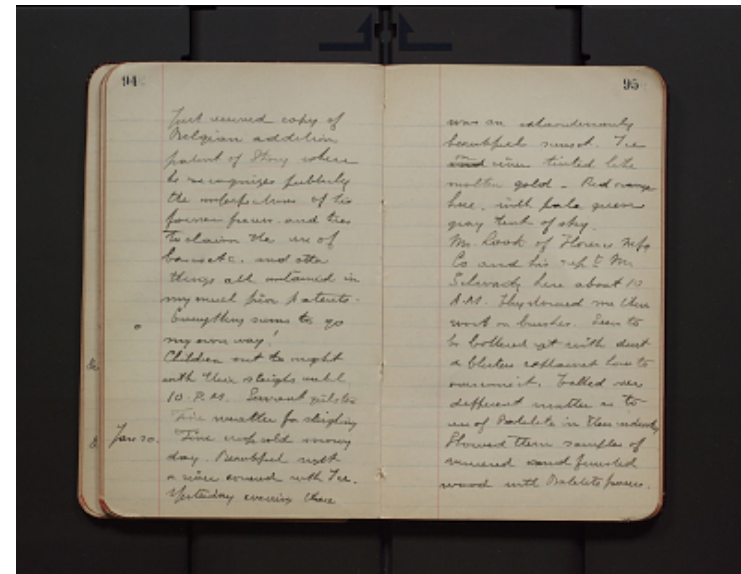
[[end page]]



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

[[preprinted]] 94 [[/preprinted]]
Just received copy of Belgian addition patent of Story
where he recognises publicly the imperfections of his former process and tries to claim the use of bases etc. and other things all contained in my much prior patents.
[[margin]]  [[/margin]] Everything seems to go my own way!
Children out to night with their sleighs until 10 P.M. Servant girls too
Fine weather for sleighing.

[[margin]] Jan 20 [[/margin]] Fine crisp cold snowy day. Beautiful sight on river covered with ice.
Yesterday evening there
[[end page]]
[[start page]]
[[preprinted]] 95 [[/preprinted]]
was an extraordinarily beautiful sunset. Ice ~~on~~ river tinted like molten gold. Red orange hue, with pale green gray tint of sky.
Mr Look of Florence Mtg Co and his sup^t Mr Schwartz here about 10 A.M. They showed me their work on brushes. Seem to be bothered yet with dust & blisters explained how to overcome it. Talked over different matter as to use of Bakelite in their industry Showed them samples of veneered and finished wood with Bakelite process.



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

96

Explained them once more how handles would be made by priming soft impregnated slabs of wood in suitable molds hot in hydraulic press thus finishing at the same time. They left their samples here so that Thurlow and I may discuss them further. Left at noon. Afternoon busy dictating letters, some laboratory work. Evening again beautiful sunset.

George got up early this morning to make bob sled. Saw them gliding down Roberts Ave in evening. Went like 50 miles per hour.

[[end page]]

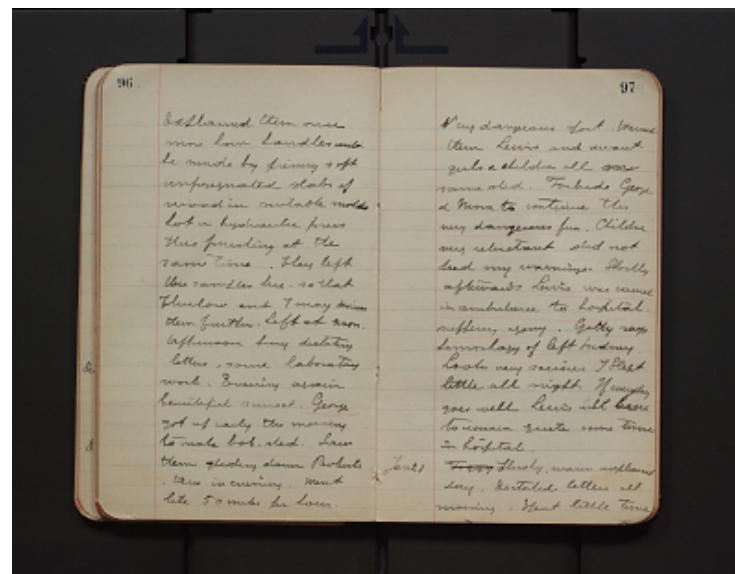
[[start page]]

97

Very dangerous spot. Warned them Lewis and servant girls and children all on same sled. Forbade George & Nina to continue this very dangerous fun. Children very reluctant did not heed my warnings. Shortly afterwards Lewis was carried in ambulance to hospital suffering agony. Getty says hemorrhage of left kidney. Looks very serious. I slept little all night. If everything goes well Lewis will have to remain quite some time in hospital.

Jan 21. ~~Foggy~~ ~~Slushy~~, warm unpleasant day. Dictated letters all morning. Spent little time

[[end page]]



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

98
in lab. Afternoon went with George to automobile show Madison Garden. George collected circulars Very few new features and only small improvements. Since 4 years motor cars made little progress except improving details. Afterwards went together to Mouquins met there Mr. Tyndale then walked up to the Royalton with him. We showed George the building of the Bar Association. Came home about 10:30. Dark slurry slush in New York Those people have little of the winter but dirt and slush. Here everything is

[[end page]]

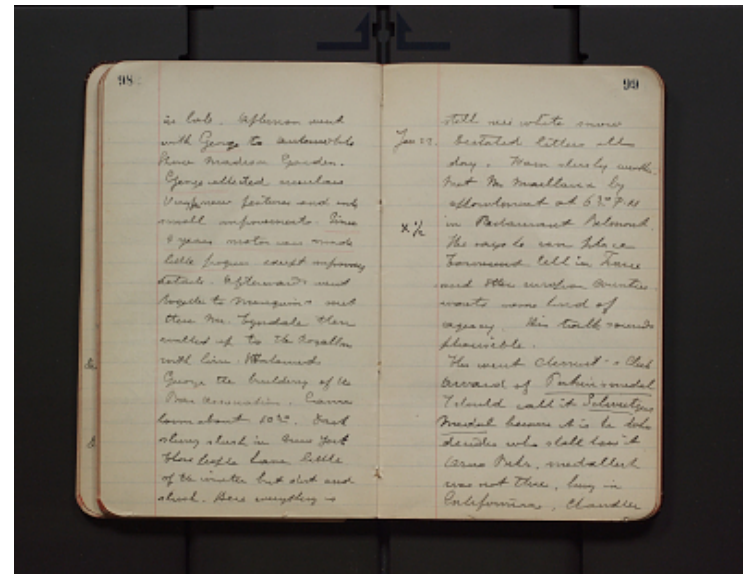
[[start page]]

99

still nice white snow

Jan 22. Dictated letters all day. Warm slushy weather. Met Mr. Mailloux by appointment at 6:30 P.M in Restaurant Belmont. X 1/2 He says he can place Townsend cell in France and other european countries wants some kind of agency. His talk sounds plausible.

Then went Chemist's Club award of Perkin's medal I should call it Schweitzers Medal because it is he who decides who shall have it Arno Behr. medallist was not there, busy in California. Chandler



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

[[preprinted]] 100 [[/preprinted]]

Nichols and Wagner all talked corn products all evening.

[[underlined]] Roessler told me [[/underlined]] they are nominating me for
[[underlined]] President of American Electrochemical Society.
[[/underlined]]

Told him I want to stop this at once and consider this is a misguided effort of my friends. Shall not accept any such office when there are so many more deserving members who are entitled to the honor. Tomorrow shall write a very strong letter in this sense to [[Nahovics?]].

Later on went to University

[[end page]]

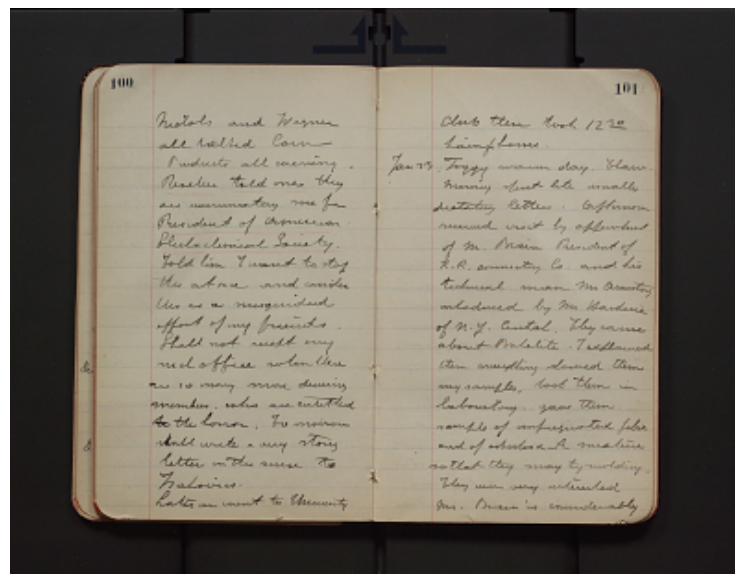
[[start page]]

[[preprinted]] 101 [[/preprinted]]

Club then took 12:30 train for home.

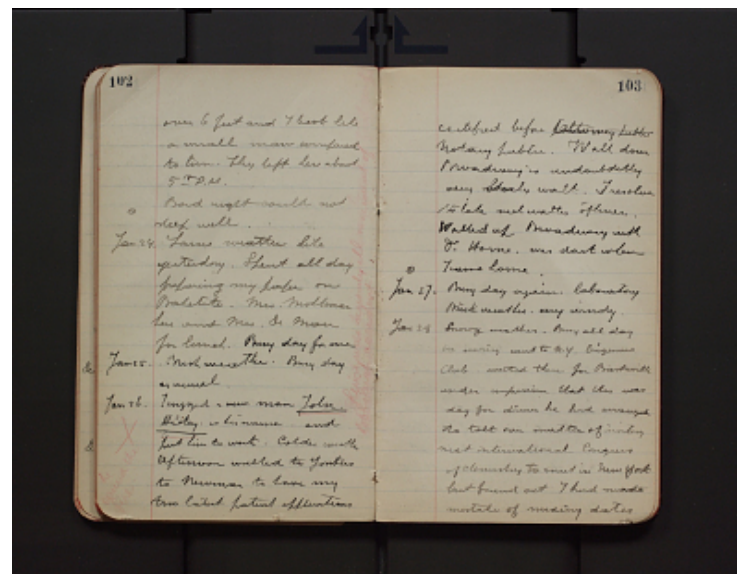
Jan 23. Foggy warm day. Thaw. Morning spent like usually dictating letters. Afternoon received visit by appointment of Mr. Brain President of R.R. connecting Co. and his technical man Mr. Armstrong introduced by Mr Hardine of N.Y. Central. They came about Bakelite. I explained them everything showed them my samples, took them in laboratory. gave them sample of impregnated fibre and of asbestos & A mixture so that they may try molding. They were very interested Mr. Brain is considerably

[[end page]]



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

over 6 feet and I look like a small man compared to him. They left here about 5:15 P.M.
 Bad night could not sleep well.
 Jan 24. Same weather like yesterday. Spent all day preparing my paper on Bakelite. Mrs. Mollman here and Mrs. De Man for lunch. Busy day for me
 Jan 25. Brisk weather. Busy day as usual.
 Jan 26. I engaged a new man John. Hickey is his name. and put him to work. Colder weather
 Afternoon walked to Yonkers to Newman to have my two latest patent applications
 he caused the fire
 Lewis was seriously ill on account of bobsleigh accident
 103
 certified before ~~attorney~~ ~~Notary public~~
 Notary public. Walk down Broadway is undoubtedly very lovely walk. I resolve to take real walks oftener
 Walked up Broadway with Dr. Horne. was dark when I came home
 Jan 27. Busy day again. laboratory Brisk weather. very windy.
 Jan 28 Snowy weather. Busy all day In evening went to N.Y. Engineers Club waited there for Baskerville under impression that this was day for dinner he had arranged to talk over matter of inviting next international Congress of chemistry to meet in New York but found out I had made mistake of mixing dates



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
 Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
 Approved by Smithsonian Staff
 Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

[[preprinted]] 104 [[/preprinted]]

and I was one week too soon Walked in slush to Mouquins then took train home. Slushy nasty depressing day in New York. What a difference with the country when I arrived here everything clean white snow.

Jan 29. Busy all day like usually evening went to Harvard Club where Loeb had invited about forty chemists to supper. A very enjoyable affair. I cannot understand how people can eat so much. After I took some fish I felt very much nourished yet the other ones ate sweetbreads and each a good sized young duck and heaven knows

[[end page]]

[[start page]]

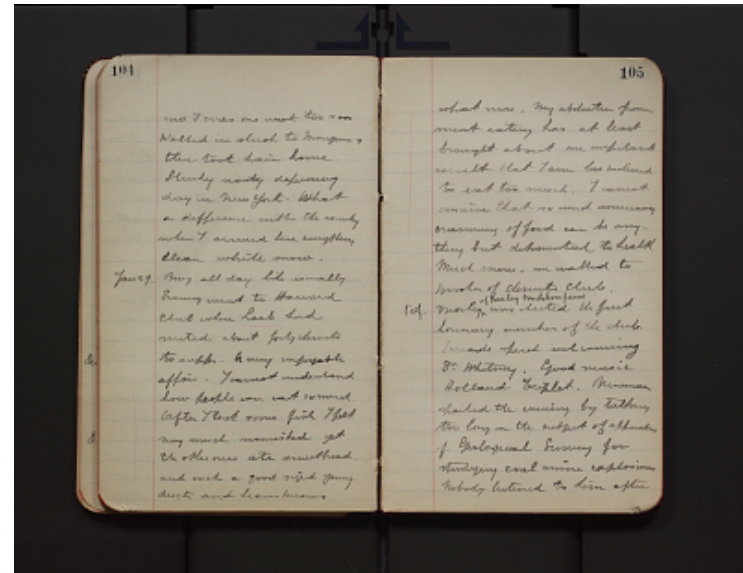
[[preprinted]] 105 [[/preprinted]]

what more. My abstention from meat eating has at least brought about one important result that I am less inclined to eat too much. I cannot conceive that so much unnecessary cramming of food can be anything but detrimental to health.

Much snow. we walked to smoker of Chemists Club. Prof. Morley [^][[of Morley Michelson fame]] was elected the first honorary member of the club.

I made speech welcoming Dr. Whitney. Good music. Holland triplet. Breneman spoiled the evening by talking too long on the subject of apparatus of Geological Survey for studying coal mine explosions Nobody listened to him after

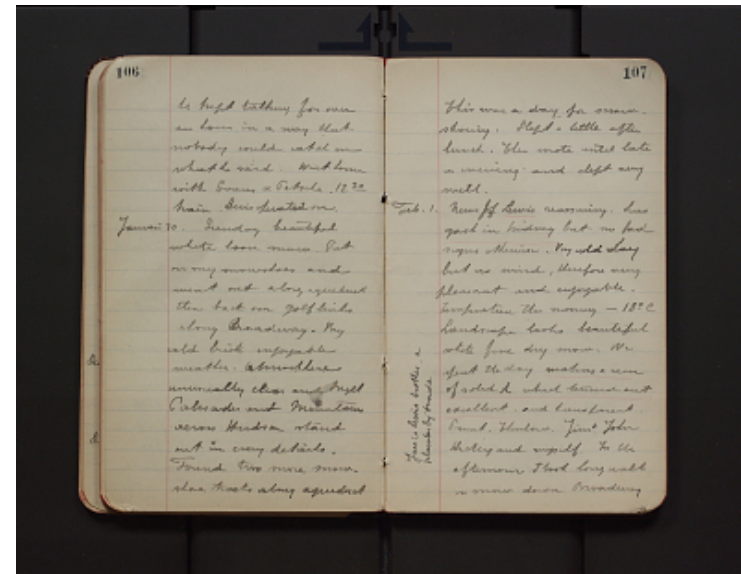
[[end page]]



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

106
he kept talking for over an hour in a way that nobody could catch on what he said. Went home with Toom? & Petsche. 12:30 train. Lewis operated on. January 30. Sunday beautiful white loose snow. Put on my snowshoes and went out along aqueduct then back over golf links along Broadway. Very cold brisk enjoyable weather. Atmosphere unusually clear and bright Palisades and mountains across Hudson stand out in every details. Found two more snowshoe tracks along aqueduct
end page
start page

107
This was a day for snowshoeing. Slept a little after lunch. Then wrote until late in evening and slept very well.
Feb. 1. News of Lewis reassuring. has gash in kidney but no bad signs otherwise. Very cold day but no wind, therefore very pleasant and enjoyable. Temperature this morning - 18 C Landscape looks beautiful white fine dry snow. We spent the day making a run of solid A which turned out excellent and transparent. Present. Thurlow, Jim & John Hickey and myself. In the afternoon I took long walk in snow down Broadway
vertical text in left margin Jim is Lewis brother, a plumber by trade
end page



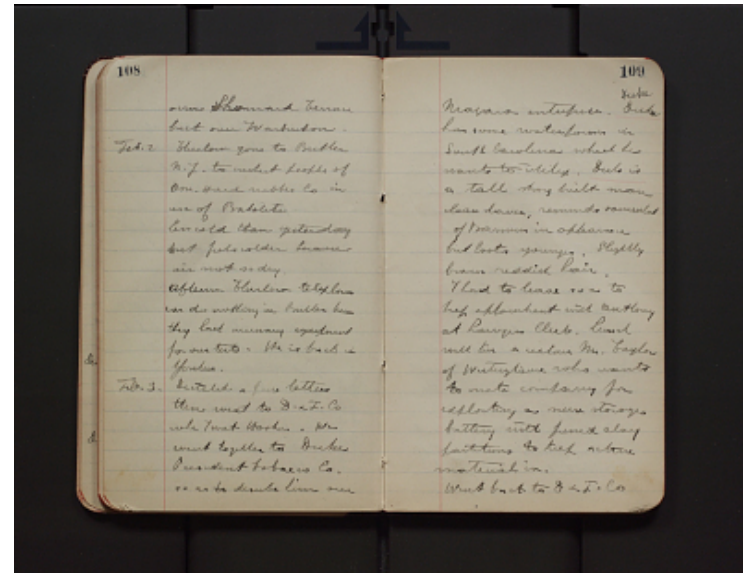
Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

across Shonnard Terrace back over Warburton.
Feb 2. Thurlow gone to Butler N. J. to instruct people of Am. Hard rubber Co in use of Bakelite.
Less cold than yesterday but feels colder because air not so dry.
Afternoon Thurlow telephones can do nothing in Butler because they lack necessary equipment for our tests. He is back in Yonkers.
Feb. 3. Dictated a few letters then went to D. & F. Co where I met Hooker. We went together to Dukes President Tobacco Co. so as to describe him our

[[end page]]

[[start page]]

[[preprinted]] 109 [[/preprinted]]
Niagara enterprise. ^[[Duke]] Duke has some water power in South Carolina which he wants to utilize. Duke is a tall strong built man clean shaven, reminds somewhat of Barnum in appearance but looks younger. Slightly brown reddish hair. I had to leave so as to keep appointment with Anthony at Lawyers Club. Lunch with him a certain Mr. Taylor of Westinghouse who wants to make company for exploring a new storage battery with fired clay partitions to keep active material in. Went back to D. & F. Co
[[end page]]



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

and spent there until 4:15 P.M. discussing various problems with housing He went to see La Dow in regard to phonograph records. Then joined Celine at Belmont Hotel took supper then

taxied to Hammerstein's Opera House. Saw Salome gruesome, unnatural play, full house, music even is no redeemer for its gruesomeness. would call music as artificial as the play. Good heaven is under pretext of art

they give us such stuff! Artists have tried for thousands of years

to civilize us. What have they accomplished? Have they stopped, tyranny, selfishness, greed, injustice, immorality? Engineers and scientists will accomplish more in one century than all the artists poets and similar emotionalists have done since the beginning of he world!

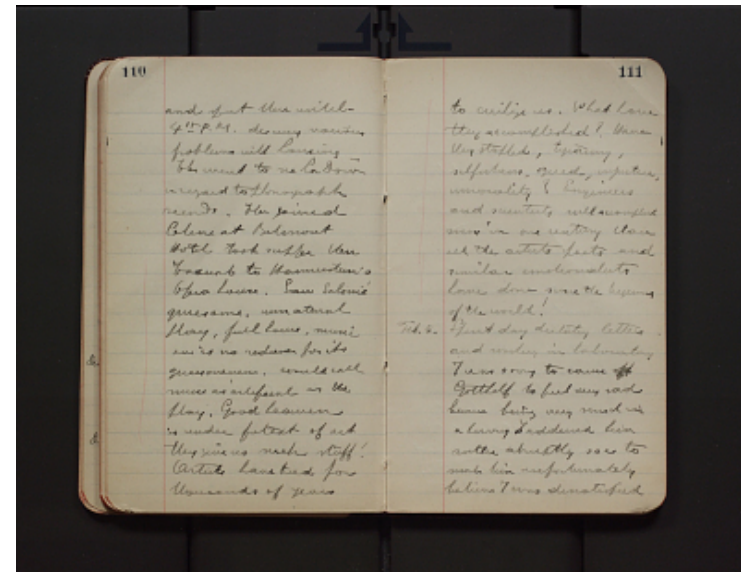
Feb. 4. Spent day dictating letters and working in the laboratory I was sorry to cause

to be disappointed. Gotthelf to feel very sad because being very much in a hurry I addressed him rather abruptly so as to make him unfortunately believe I was dissatisfied

to be disappointed. Gotthelf to feel very sad because being very much in a hurry I addressed him rather abruptly so as to make him unfortunately believe I was dissatisfied

to be disappointed. Gotthelf to feel very sad because being very much in a hurry I addressed him rather abruptly so as to make him unfortunately believe I was dissatisfied

to be disappointed. Gotthelf to feel very sad because being very much in a hurry I addressed him rather abruptly so as to make him unfortunately believe I was dissatisfied



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

112

with him. which is not the case. He is very very slow and this of course causes me some impatience when I am anxious to forge ahead, but he is a reliable and honest man of good chemical training.

I see I have to make up my mind that most people I meet are much slower than I would like to see them. Spent remainder of the day putting last touches on my paper on Bakelite which I shall send tomorrow.

I hope I am not making a mistake by thus sending ~~Bakel~~ my work

[[end page]]

[[start page]]

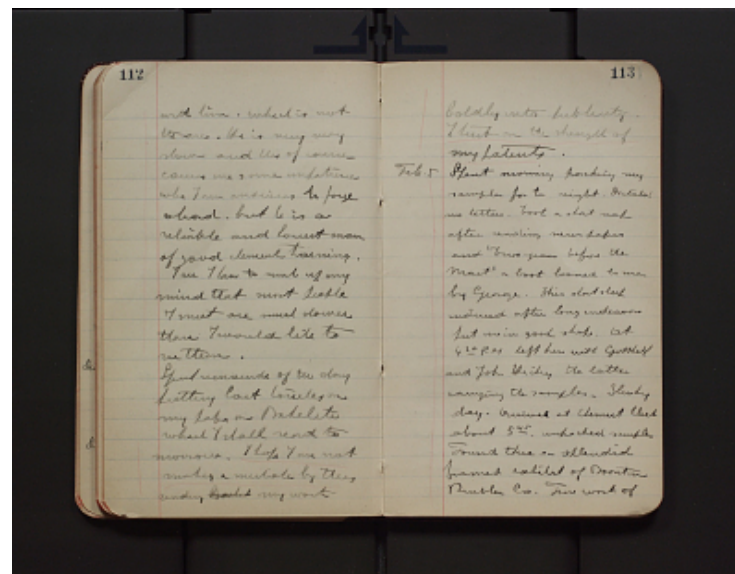
113

boldly into publicity. I trust on the strength of my patents.

Feb. 5 Spent morning packing my samples for to night. Dictated no letters. Took a short nap after reading newspapers and "Two years before the Mast" a book loaned to me by George. This short sleep induced after long endeavors put me in good shape. At 4:30 P.M left here with Gotthelf and John Hickey the latter carrying the samples. Slushy day. Arrived at Chemist Club

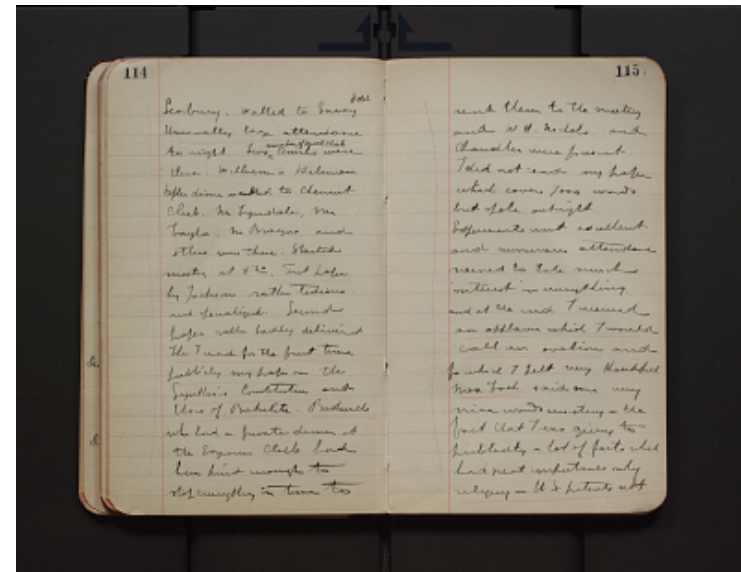
about 5:45. unpacked samples. Found there a splendid framed exhibit of Boonton Rubber Co. Fine work of

[[end page]]



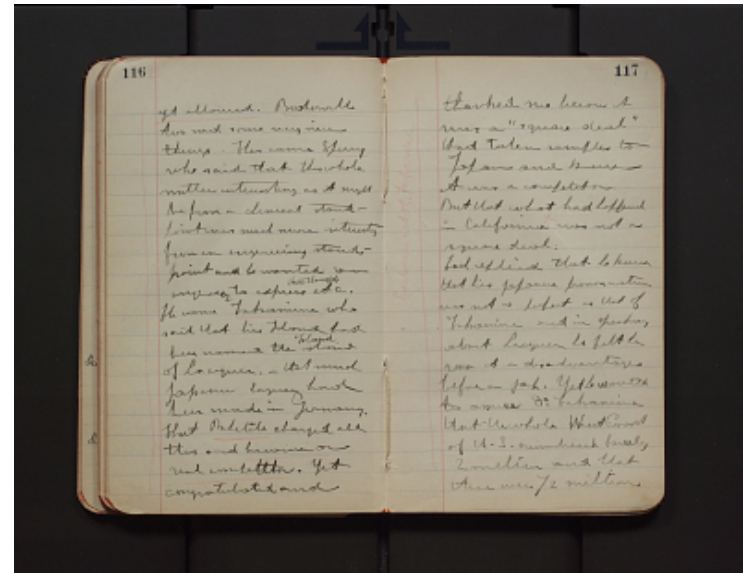
Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

114
Seabury. Walked to Savoy ^ Hotel
Unusually large attendance tonight. Two
members of Anvil Club Anvils were there. William & Kelman After
dinner walked to Chemist Club. Mr. Tyndale, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Brayne?
and others were there. Started meeting at 8:30. First paper rather
by Jackson rather tedious and specialized. Second paper
rather badly delivered Then I read for the first time publicly
my paper on the Synthesis Constitution and Uses of Bakelite.
Baskerville who had a private dinner at the Engineers
Club had been kind enough to stop everything in time to
[end page]
[start page]
115
send them to the meeting and W. H. Nichols
and Chandler were present. I
did not read my paper which covers 7000 words
but spoke outright. Experiments went excellent and numerous
attendance seemed to take much interest in everything and at the end I
received and applause which I would call an ovation
and for which I felt very thankful Max Toch
said some very nice words insisting on the fact that I was
giving to publicity a lot of facts which had great importance only
relying on U.S. patents not
[end page]



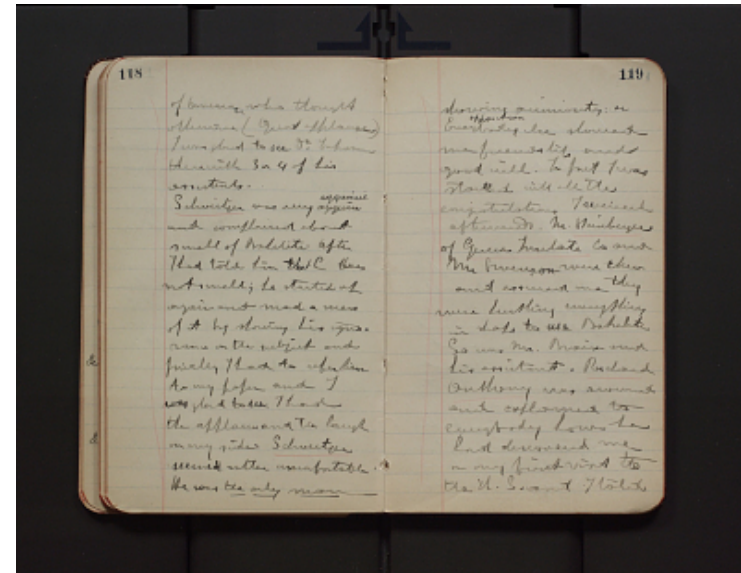
Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

116
 yet allowed. Baskerville
 too said some very nice things. Then came
 Sperry who said that this whole
 matter interesting as it might be from a chemical standpoint much more
 interesting from an engineering standpoint and he wanted an
 engineer to express ^ [these thoughts] etc. Then came
 Takamine who said that his plant had been named the ^ [Island] [?] of
 Lacquer. - that much Japanese lacquer had been made in Germany.
 That Bakelite changed all this and
 becomes our real competitor. Yet
 congratulated and
 thanked me because it was a "square deal" Had taken samples to Japan
 and knew it was a competitor. But that what had happened in California
 was not a square deal. Toch replied that he knew that his
 Japanese pronunciation was not so perfect as that of
 Takamine and in speaking about lacquer he felt he was at a
 disadvantage before a Jap. Yet he wanted to assure Dr. Takamine
 that the whole West Coast of U.S. numbered barely 2 million and that
 there were 72 million
 Exclusion act of Japanese
 117
 thanked me because it was a "square deal" Had taken samples to Japan
 and knew it was a competitor. But that what had happened in California
 was not a square deal. Toch replied that he knew that his
 Japanese pronunciation was not so perfect as that of
 Takamine and in speaking about lacquer he felt he was at a
 disadvantage before a Jap. Yet he wanted to assure Dr. Takamine
 that the whole West Coast of U.S. numbered barely 2 million and that
 there were 72 million
 Exclusion act of Japanese



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
 Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
 Approved by Smithsonian Staff
 Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

[preprinted] 118 [preprinted]
 of America who thought [red line along left margin] otherwise (great
 applauses) was glad to see Dr. Takamine there with 3 or 4 of his
 assistants.
Schweitzer was very ^{aggressive} aggressive and complained about smell of Bakelite - after I had told him
 that C does not smell; he started up again and made a mess of it by
 showing his ignorance on the subject and finally I had to refer him to my
 paper and I was glad to see I had the applause and the laugh on my
 side. Schweitzer seemed rather uncomfortable He was the only man
showing animosity: or ^{opposition} Everybody else showed me
 friendship and goodwill. In fact I was started with all the congratulations
 I received afterwards. Mr. Steinberger of
 Queen Insulate Co and Mr Swenson were there and assured me they
 were hustling everything in shape to use Bakelite So was Mr. Brain?
 and his assistant. Richard Anthony was
 around and explained to everybody how he had observed me on my first
 visit to the U.S. and I told
 [red line along left margin]
 [end page]



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
 Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
 Approved by Smithsonian Staff
 Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

120

how with him I got my first job which allowed me to become a resident of the U.S. Bancroft had been unusually nice, came specially from [?] to hear my paper and return same night. Fine good thorough fellow.

Took 12:30 P.M train Met Celine and went home but could not fall asleep so I write these notes.

George complains bitterly of ear-ache. I had the same pains when his age. Nina has

[[end page]]

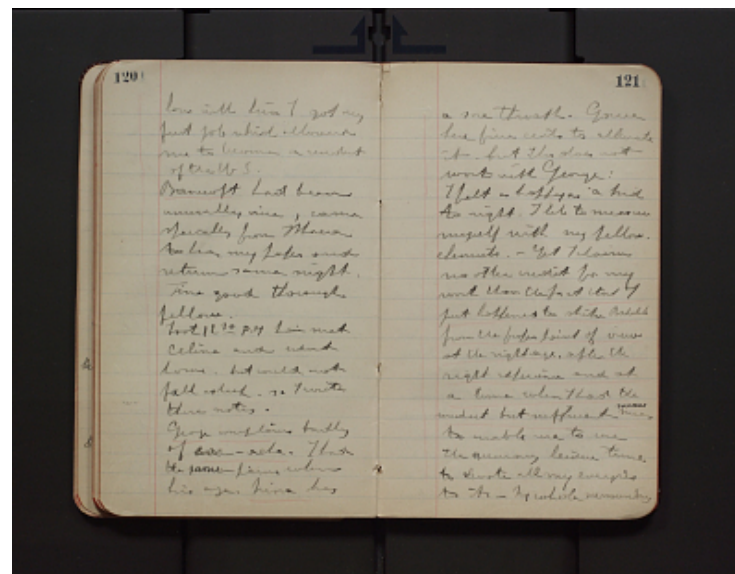
[[start page]]

121

[[vertical red line in margin]]

a sore throat. Gave her five cents to alleviate it but this does not work with George. I felt as happy as a kid tonight. I like to measure myself with my fellow chemists. -- Yet I claim no other credit for my work than the fact that I just happened to strike Bakelite from the proper point of view at the right age after the right experience and at a time when I had the modest but sufficient means to enable me to use the necessary leisure time to devote all my energies to it. My whole surrounding

[[end page]]



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

122
have entrusted me to various and certainly in a very large measure the interest and cooperation of Celine.

At this time 4:10 A.M. when I write this certainly, nobody in the world thinks of Bakelite except ~~I~~ me, and the only reason why I do is that I cannot fall asleep after an exciting evening of this kind.

Feb. 6 Slept little last night. Dictated some letters then went to New York took lunch at Mouquin's.

The Fensophs, Dr. Foster, Hanerman, Keenan, Cunningham, Evans & Newell all showed me articles which have appeared in NY Herald Sun, Tribune

[end page]

[start page]

123

Hanerman made some funny verses starting with "Here's to O7 H38 C43 to Bakelite A to B & to C."

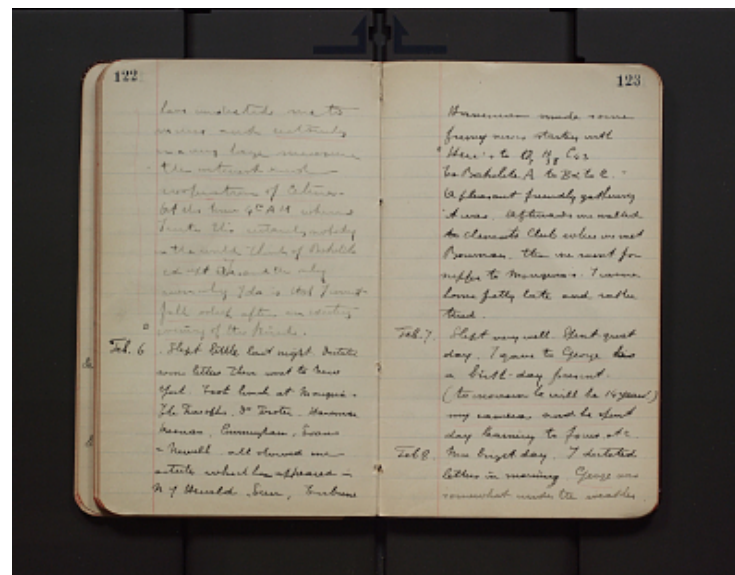
A pleasant friendly gathering it was. Afterwards we walked to Chemists Club where we met Bowman, then we went for supper to Mouquin's. I came home pretty late and rather tired.

Feb. 7 Slept very well. spent quiet day. I gave to George ~~his~~ a birth-day present. (tomorrow he will be 14 years!) my camera and he spent day learning to focus, etc.

Feb 8 Nice bright day. I dictated letters in morning. George

was somewhat under the weather

[end page]



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

124

[[vertical red line in margin]]

[[u]] Very strange boy. Very developed in some ways and yet very much of a child yet. The day before yesterday he was playing marbles. [[u]] For his birthday we let him ask what he wanted. [[?]] party etc. Well he only wanted [[u]] a big glass marble and a Brownie Camera. [[u]] Celine found out that they wanted to make [[u]] George [[u]] president of his class but he refused and afterwards when asked why by his master said he was satisfied with the thought that they had asked him.

More letters of inquiries about Bakelite came pouring

[[end page]]

[[start page]]

125

in. [[u]] Thurlow [[u]] left for Schenectady teaching General Electric how to use Bakelite for insulators.

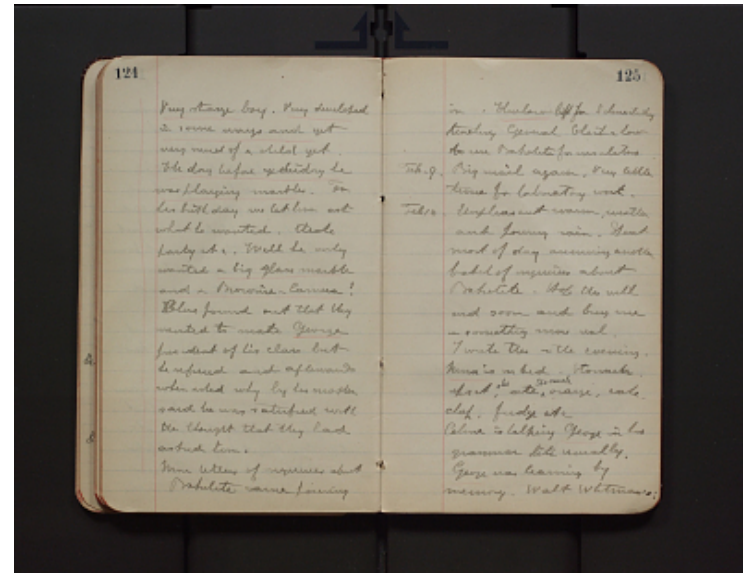
Feb. 9. Big mail again. Very little time for laboratory work.

Feb 10. Unpleasant warm weather and pouring rain. Spent most of day answering another batch of inquiries about Bakelite. Hope this will end soon and busy me something more real. I write this in the evening.

[[u]] Nina [[u]] is in bed. Stomach upset ^she ate ^too much orange, cake, chop, fudge etc. Celine is helping [[u]]

George [[u]] in his grammar like usually. George was learning by memory. Walt Whitman's:

[[end page]]



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

[[preprinted]] 126 [[preprinted]]

My captain, my captain all in preparation of Lincoln's anniversary. Yesterday night I finished "Two Years before the Mast" by Dana a very interesting book which together with Washington Irving's "Astoria" give a very clear insight as to early conditions of the Pacific coast before 1835. Kept busy writing until about 10 P.M.

Feb 11 This is Lincoln's birthday and 100th anniversary. Tried to go to Nina's school so as to see the celebration. But Thurlow is in Schenectady and I am alone and I had to

[[end page]]

[[new page]]

[[preprinted]] 127 [[preprinted]]

make a run of solid A with Jim ^[[Jim Taylor]] & John and this required some hustling for me and I did not get thru before 3 P.M.

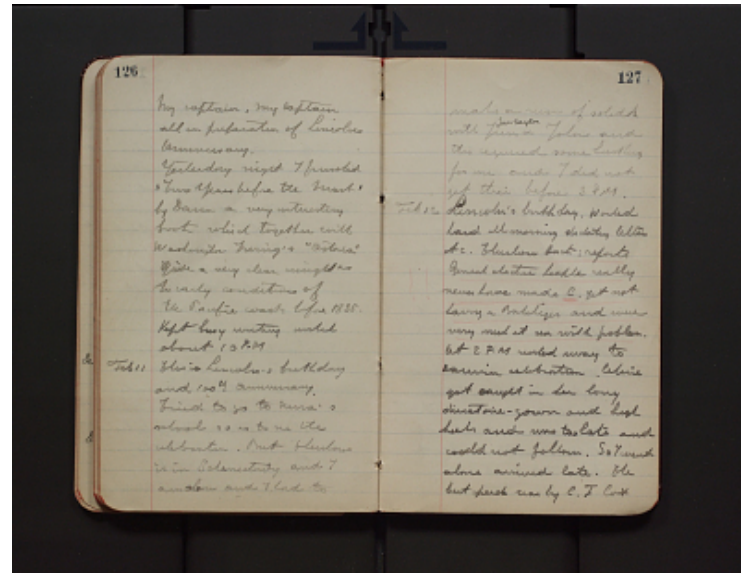
Feb 12 Lincoln's birthday. Worked hard all morning dictating letters etc.

[[underlined]] Thurlow back: reports General electric people

[[!! in left margin]] really never have made C. yet not having a Bakelizer and were very much at sea with problem. [[underlined]]

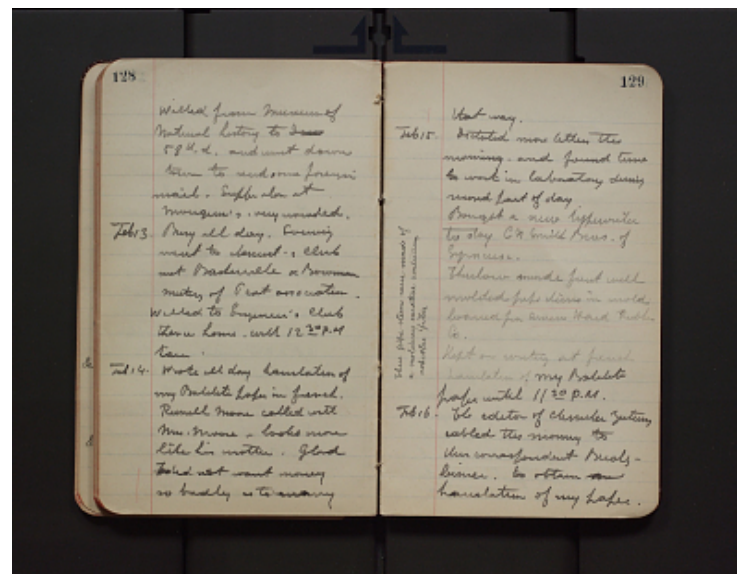
At 2 P.M rushed away to Darwin celebration. Celine got caught in her long diretoire-gown and high heels and was too late and could not follow. So I went alone arrived late. The best speech was by C. F. Cox

[[end page]]



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

128
 Walked from Museum of Natural history to ~~58th st.~~ and went down town to send some foreign mail. Supper alone at Mouquin's. very crowded.
 Feb 13. Busy all day. Evening went to chemist's club met Baskerville & Bowman meeting of Peat association. Walked to Engineer's Club thence home. with 12:30 P.M. train.
 Feb 14. Wrote all day translation of my Bakelite paper in french. Russell Moore called with Mrs. Moore - looks more like his mother. Glad I did not want money so badly as to marry
 These pipe stems were made of a molding material containing asbestos fiber
 Feb 15. Dictated more letters this morning. and found time to work in laboratory during second part of day.
 Bought a new typewriter today L N Smith Bros. of Syracuse.
 Thurlow made first well molded pipe stems in mold loaned from Amer Hard Rubber Co. Kept on working at french translation of my Bakelite paper until 11:30 P.M.
 The editor of Chemiker Zeitung cabled this morning to their correspondent Berolzheimer to obtain translation of my paper.



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
 Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
 Approved by Smithsonian Staff
 Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

130

George and I are going to the Boat Show. this afternoon. Fine crisp weather not too cold.

~~Feb 17~~ Nina went with us and so ~~of~~ of being kept after school. We all three went to that celebration which interested us all. Put G. & N. ^George & Nina^ with their bag full of catalogs etc. in the Subway. I stayed in New York & went to the Club.

Feb. 17 This morning I find in the mail that I have been elected by majority on nomination ballot of Am. Electrochemical Society ~~for~~ President. Next in number is Dr.

[[end page]]

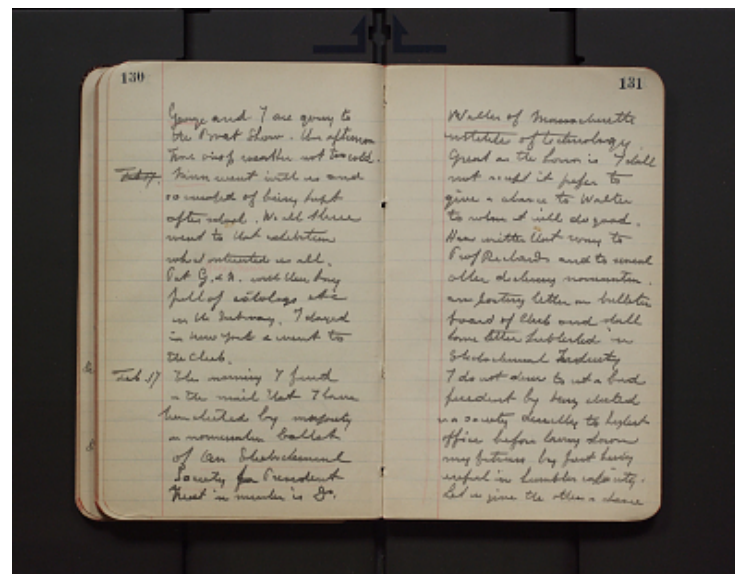
[[start page]]

131

[[vertical red line in margin entire length of page]]

Walker of Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Great as the honor is I shall not accept it prefer to give a chance to Walter to whom it will do good. Have written that way to Prof Richards and to several other declining nomination and posting letter in bulletin board of Club and shall have letter published in Electrochemical Industry. I do not desire to set a bad precedent by being elected in a society directly to highest office before having shown my fitness by first being useful in humbler capacity. Let us give the others a chance

[[end page]]



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

132

Feb 18. Same routine & more letters.

Will. Anders was here in the afternoon with his motor car. Poor fellow has to be operated on for stone in the bladder tomorrow. For years imagined it was even worse so he seemed relatively happy. Which shows that everything in this world is relative

Feb 19. Dictated letters. Hurried to New York. D & F. Co. spent some time with Lansing then interview with Mailloux until 6:10 P.M (charge 1/2 day) then in pouring rain

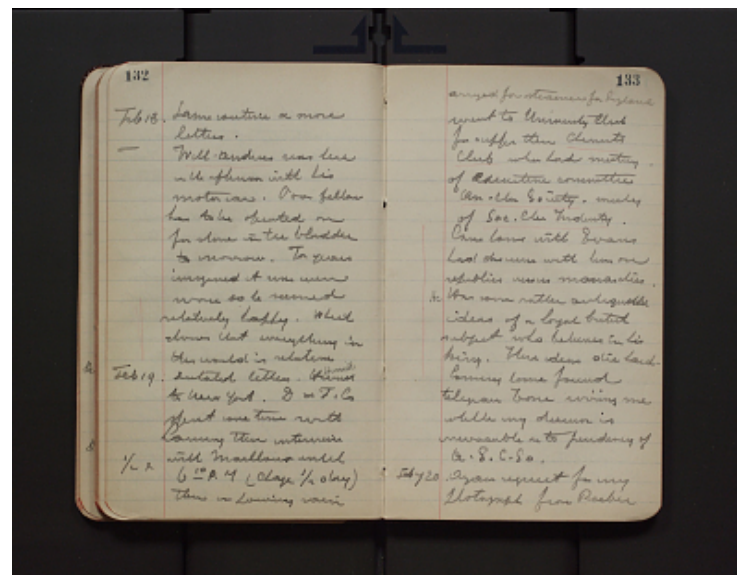
[[end page]]

133

arranged for steamer for England. went to University Club for supper then Chemists Club where had meeting of Executive Committee Am. Chem Society. Came home with Evans had discussion with him on republics versus monarchies HC Has some rather antiquated ideas of a loyal british subject who believes in his king. These ideas die hard. Coming home found telegram Tone wiring me whether my decision is irreversible as to presidency of A.E.C.-So.

Feb 20 Again request for my photograph from Rocker?

[[end page]]



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

134

for his journal. Many more letters. Have not had sleep enough. Short nap after lunch [?] me up. Went to New York meeting Chemist Club later to meeting of future International Congress of Applied Chemistry Took supper at University Club. Were present Nichols, Chairman Baskerville, Schweitzer, Parker, Eckhardt, Dr. J. Richards, [Reoeber?], McFihenev, Evans, Doremier, Bowman ^Boquet, Parker, Mc Kenna and a few others. many letters received all supporting the idea.

Good spirit prevailed. It was decided form preliminary

[[end page]]

[[start page]]

135

committee to enlist support for Bill in Washington to invite the congress to hold its meeting in New York. I have posted copy of my letter to Richards declining election as President of A.E.S. on the bulletin board of the Chemists Club Came home with Evans on the 12:30.

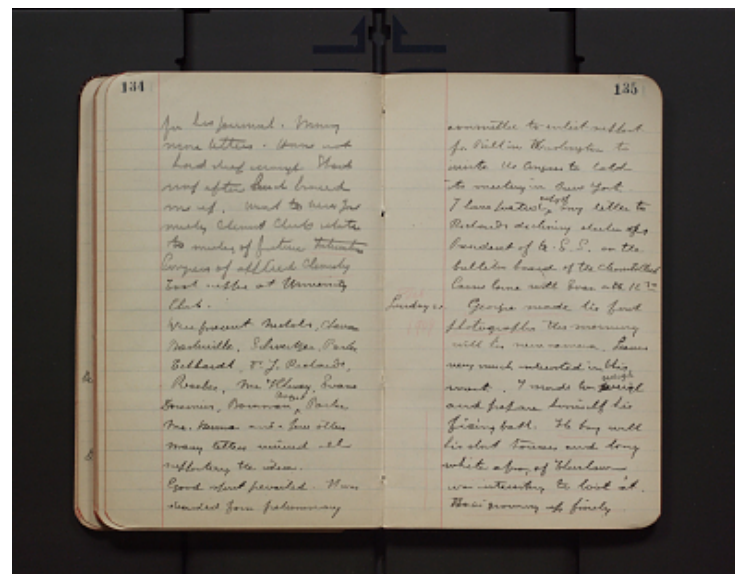
[[marginal entry in red]] Feb 1909 [[/marginal entry]]

Sunday 21 George made his first photographs

this morning with his new camera. Lewis very much interested in this work. I made him weigh and prepare himself his fixing bath. The boy with his short trousers and long white apron of Thurlow was interesting to look at. He is growing up finely

[[/underlined]]

[[end page]]



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

136

[vertical red line full length of left margin]

In the afternoon E.H. Hooker came here with his small motor car and Miss [?]. Stayed for supper. Mrs. De Man here.

February 22. Worked in laboratory Miss Evans not here so no letter dictating.

February 23. Letter dictating. Got more clippings some very funny. for instance headlines: Have you got a piece of oxybenzylmethylene glycol-anhydride? If so keep it it's a good thing. ~~fresh from~~ hot from the boat of chemistry".

Feb 24. [marginal entry in red 1909] Rain rain rain & fog. Made a run of varnish stock and kept hustling in my

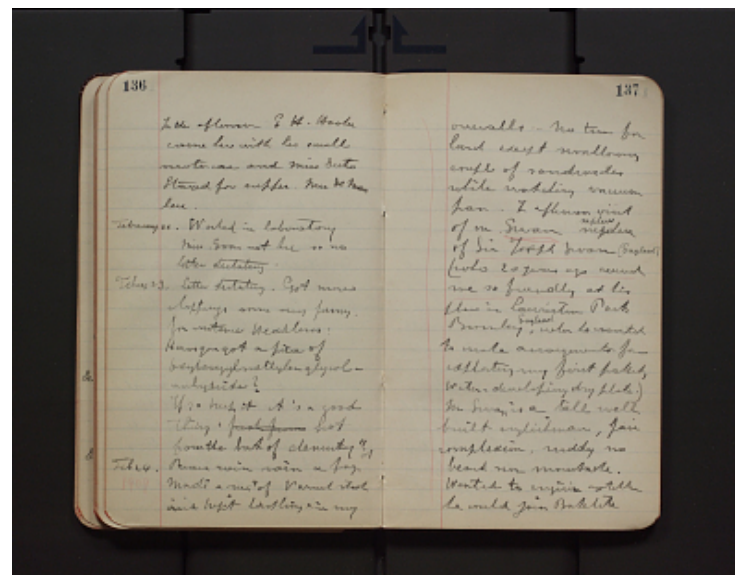
[end page]

[start page]

137

overalls - No time for lunch except swallowing couple of sandwiches while watching vacuum fan. In afternoon visit of Mr. Swan ~~^~~ nephew of Sir Joseph Swan (England) (who 20 years ago received me so friendly at his place in Lauriston Park Bromley [^]England when he wanted to make arrangements for exporting my first patent. Water-developing dry plate.)

Mr. Swan is a tall well built englishman, fair complexion, ruddy no beard nor moustache. Wanted to inquire whether he could join Bakelite [end page]



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

138

enterprise. Explained to him I was provided for everything and did not intend to form a company. Pleasant talk together. He left here in drenching rain. Made very good impression. Mr. W.R. Seabury arrived here, slept here. Spent time together until late talking over Bakelite matters. Violent wind during night.

Feb 25. Spent almost all day answering letters. Very windy day -- what a change with yesterday. Afternoon went to Yonkers for hair cut.

Berolzheimer sent me second part of german translation of my

end page

start page

139

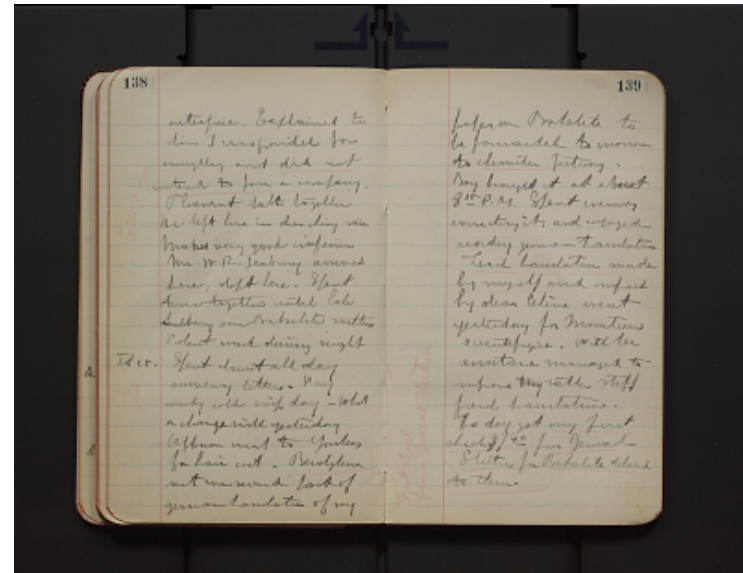
paper on Bakelite to be forwarded tomorrow to chemiter Zeitung. Boy brought it at about 8:15 P.M. Spent evening correcting it and enjoyed reading german translation

French translation made by myself and refined by dear Celine went yesterday for Moniteur scientifique. With her assistance managed to improve my rather stiff french translations.

First check from General Electric written vertically in red

Today got my first check \$7.40 from General Electric for Bakelite delivered to them.

end page



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

Feb 26. There were but a few letters yet before I knew it the first part of the day was gone answering them mostly by those of D[^]velopment. & F. Co. (Hooker) Spent only short time in lab. Thurlow making samples of impregnated paper. Gotthelf determining rate of speed of reaction between CH₂O and phenol. During afternoon walked to Yacht Club where I found George alone. Beautiful clear and mild day.

George in evening made his lessons of language and History on typewriter. Stupid Horatius of Macauley and history of war of secession. What a difference with us children as we were! Did not

Impregnated paper

Feb 27. Busy dictating text for Patent Finishing wood. Thurlow making impregnated coils for Monday's lecture. Left here at 4 P.M. took supper at University Club with Mr. Robinson of Yonkers. Then went to Chemist Club smoker numerous attendances. - Carnival Smoker, all arranged by Loeb. Convivial Program very well arranged. All got paper colored hats with C₂H or OH printed on it and

Then some comical papers

were read, parodies of the work of some of the members. Schweitzer read: Little Journeys to the home of known elements. = Roasted

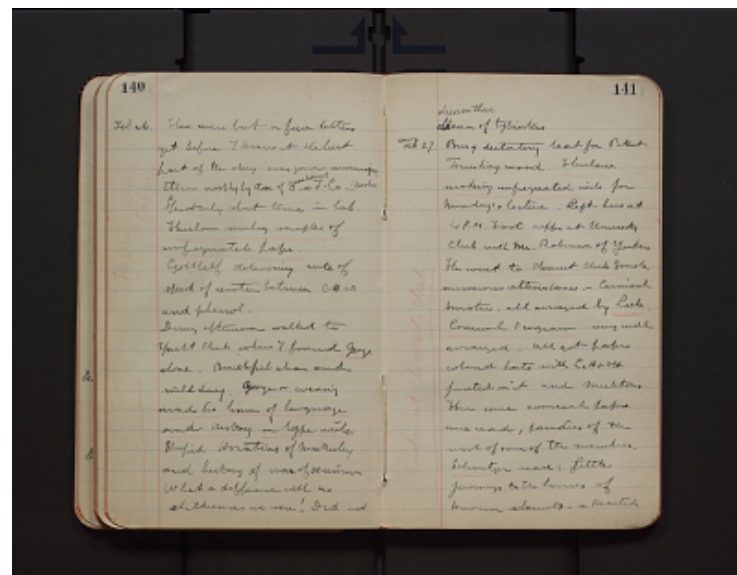
Smoker at Chemical Club

Feb 27. Busy dictating text for Patent Finishing wood. Thurlow making impregnated coils for Monday's lecture. Left here at 4 P.M. took supper at University Club with Mr. Robinson of Yonkers. Then went to Chemist Club smoker numerous attendances. - Carnival Smoker, all arranged by Loeb. Convivial Program very well arranged. All got paper colored hats with C₂H or OH printed on it and

Then some comical papers

were read, parodies of the work of some of the members. Schweitzer read: Little Journeys to the home of known elements. = Roasted

Smoker at Chemical Club

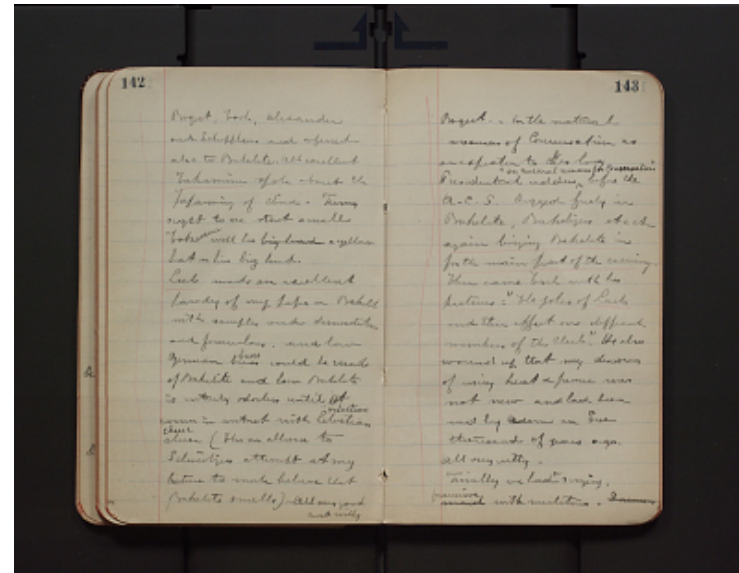


Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

142
Boquet, Toch, Alexander and Schipphaus? and referred also to Bakelite. All excellent Takamine spoke about the Japanning of China. Funny sight to see stout small Takamine with his ~~big head~~ a yellow hat on his big head. Loeb made an excellent parody of my paper on Bakelite with samples and demonstrations and formulas. and how German buns could be made of Bakelite and how Bakelite is entirely odorless until it comes in contact with helvetian [^]["Helvetian"] cheese [^][[cheese]] (This an allusion to Schweitzers attempt at my lecture to make believe that Bakelite smells) All very good and witty

end page
start page

143
Boquet = On the material resources of Conversation as an expiation to his long Presidential address [^] ["On Natural Resources for Conservation"] before the A.C.S. Digged freely in Bakelite, Bakelizers etc etc. again bringing Bakelite in for the main part of the evening. Then came back with his pictures = "The jokes of Loeb and their effect on different members of the Club." He also wound up that my discovery of using heat & pressure was not new and had been used by Adam an Eve thousands of years ago. All very witty. Finally we heard [^][[OL?]] singing ~~march~~ procession with ~~Doremus~~ Doremus



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

144

Tall Doremus marching

Drum-Major with a brass rod he had picked up somewhere. With his long frock-coat and pointed clown hat he looked very funny. We had beer-frankfurters hot tamales, pipes, tobacco cigars, chicken salad, cheese coffee etc. A very enjoyable evening for everybody.

Feb. 28 Spent day resting and reading.

took walk in afternoon went to visit our old neighborhood on Hawthorne Ave. Nothing has changed there except the impression it makes on me. All the houses which looked so important to

me looked trivial and shabby now. Same thing happens often whenever

our points of view or own surroundings change whenever we are no

longer influenced too much by our own surroundings.

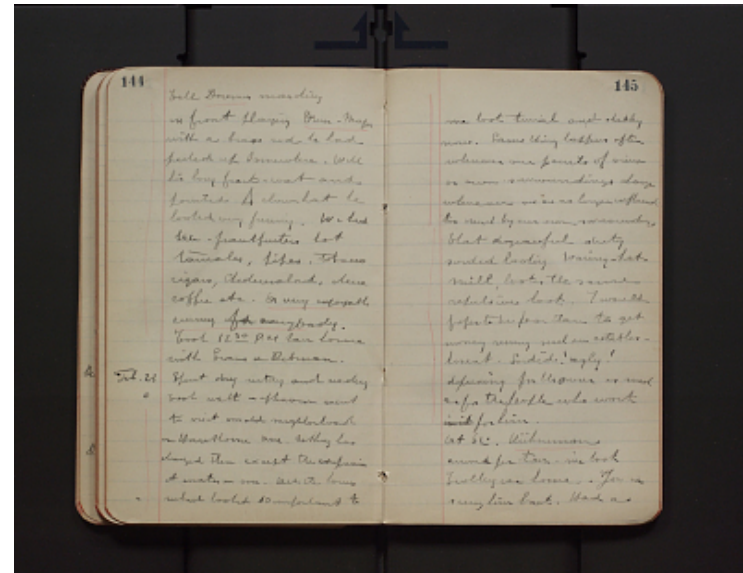
That disgraceful dirty sordid looking Waring-hat-mill looks the same repulsive look. I would prefer to be poor than to get money running such an establishment. Sordid! Ugly! depressing for the owner as much as for the people who work in it for him.

At 6:20. Kuhneman arrived per train - we took trolley car

home. Jon is seeing him back. Had a

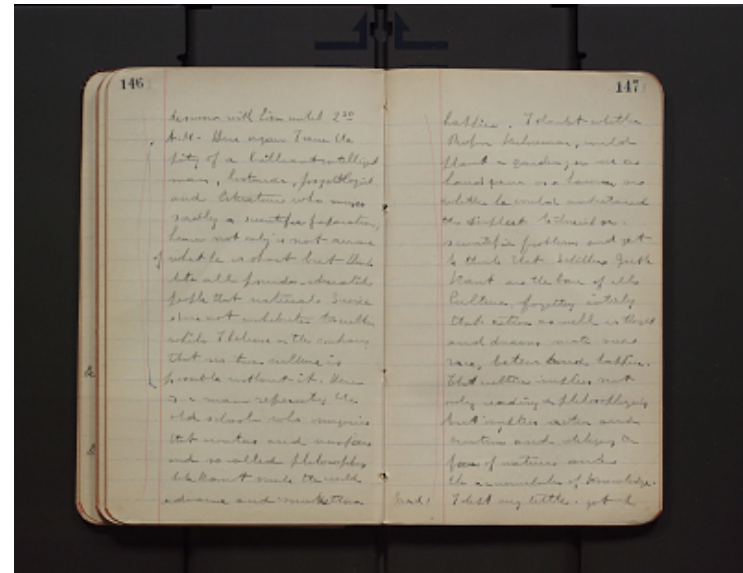
very nice talk. Had a

very nice talk.



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

[[preprinted]] 146 [[/preprinted]]
 [[vertical red and blue lines in left margin]]
 discussion with him until 2:30 A.M. Here again I saw the pity of a brilliant intelligent man, historian, psychologist, and literateur who misses sadly a scientific preparation, hence not only is not aware what he is short but thinks like all pseudo-educated people that material science does not contribute to culture while I believe on the contrary that no true culture is possible without it. Here
 [[/vertical blue line in left margin]]
 is a man representing the old school who imagines that writers and versifiers and so called philosophers like Kant make the world advance and make them [[/vertical red line in left margin]][[end page]]
 [[start page]]
 [[preprinted]] 147 [[/preprinted]]
 [[vertical red line in left margin]]
 happier. I doubt whether Professor Kuhneman, could plant a garden; or use a hand saw or a hammer or whether he could understand the simplest technical or scientific problems and yet he thinks that Schiller, Goethe Kant are the base of all culture, forgetting entirely that action as well as thought and dreams make our race better & and happier. That culture implies not only reading & philosophizing but implies action and creation and utilizing the forces of nature and the accumulation of knowledge.
 [[/vertical red line in left margin]]
 March 1 I slept very little. got up
 [[end page]]



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
 Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
 Approved by Smithsonian Staff
 Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

148

[[vertical red line in margin]]

too early. took a walk with Professor Kuhneman along aqueduct. then thru Untermeyer; philosophizing discussing comparing notes. He is undoubtedly a very gifted man and a most agreeable conversationalist. I specially like to discuss with him because I find it so easy to defeat some of his extreme standpoints. On the other hand he is very thorough and honest in his arguments and presents them admirably well.

Hurried thru lunch he had to leave for Brooklyn where he had to give a lecture on Schiller

[[/vertical red line in margin]]

[[end page]]

[[start page]]

149

[[vertical note in margin]] Second paper on Bakelite [[/vertical note in margin]]

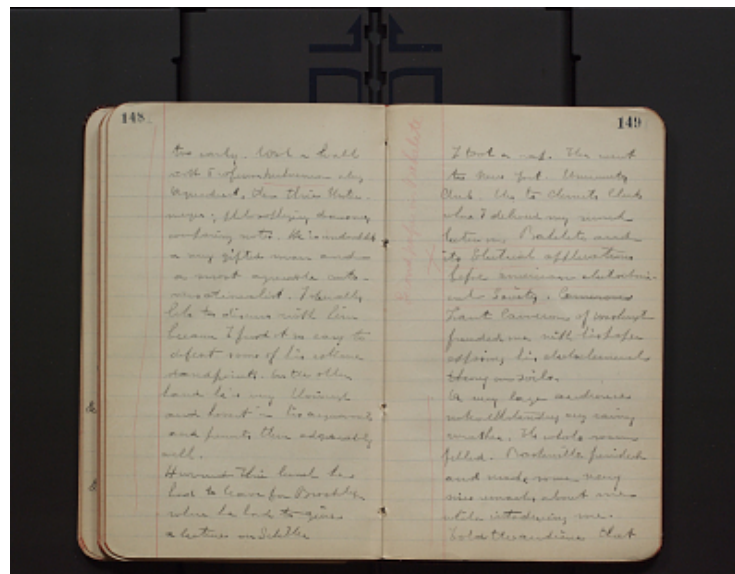
I took a nap. Then went to New York University Club. Then to Chemists Club where I delivered my second lecture on Bakelite and X its Electrical applications before American Electrochemical Society. ~~Cameron~~ Frank Cameron of Washington provided me with his paper explaining his electrochemical theory on soils.

[[vertical red line in margin]]

A very large audience notwithstanding very rainy weather. The whole room filled. Baskerville presided and made some very nice remarks about me while introducing me. Told the audience that

[[/vertical red line in margin]]

[[end page]]



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

[[preprinted]] 150 [[/preprinted]]

[[underlined]] publicly my work was my way of celebrating my 25th anniversary of my doctorship. [[/underlined]] I had quite a success with my paper and a very long and intelligent discussion followed which lasted until late.

Evans, [[Tiffard?]], [[Cassum?]]. R. Anthony. Baskerville we all went to new building of Lotus Club where we ate Welsh rarebit and where Evans in our honor toasted us with a bottle of champagne. Pouring rain in coming home. I ordered carriage from Heavy and it was past 3AM when I arrived here.

[[end page]]

[[start page]]

[[preprinted]] 151 [[/preprinted]]

[[in red on top of month]] 1909

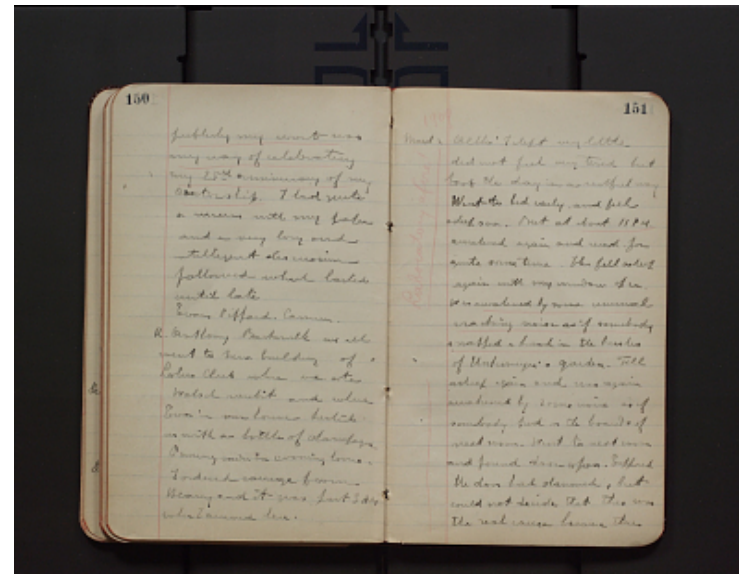
[[vertical red line in left margin]] Laboratory afire! [[vertical marginal entry written in red]]

March 2 Althou' I slept very little did not feel very tired but took the day in a restful way Went to bed early and fell asleep soon. But at [[underlined]] about 11 PM. awakened again and read for quite some time. Then fell asleep again with my window open. Was [[underlined]] awakened by some unusual crunching noise as if somebody snapped a branch in the bushes [[/underlined]] of Untermeyer's garden. Fell asleep again and was again

awakened by some noise as if somebody tread on the boards of next room. Went to next room and found door open. Supposed the door had slammed, but could not decide that this was the real cause because there

[[/vertical red line in left margin]]

[[end page]]



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

152

[[vertical red line in margin]]

was little or no wind. Fell asleep again and at about 4 AM was awakened by somebody knocking gently at my door. I thought I was dreaming but the knock repeated and somebody opened the door slightly. Then I saw it was Martha, the cook who tole me in a low very self possessed voice as if she did not want to awaken the other people in the house: "Dr. Baekeland your barn is afire."

I thought I was dreaming but she repeated the same sentence in the same moderated voice. Then I rushed to the window of the "spare

[[end page]]

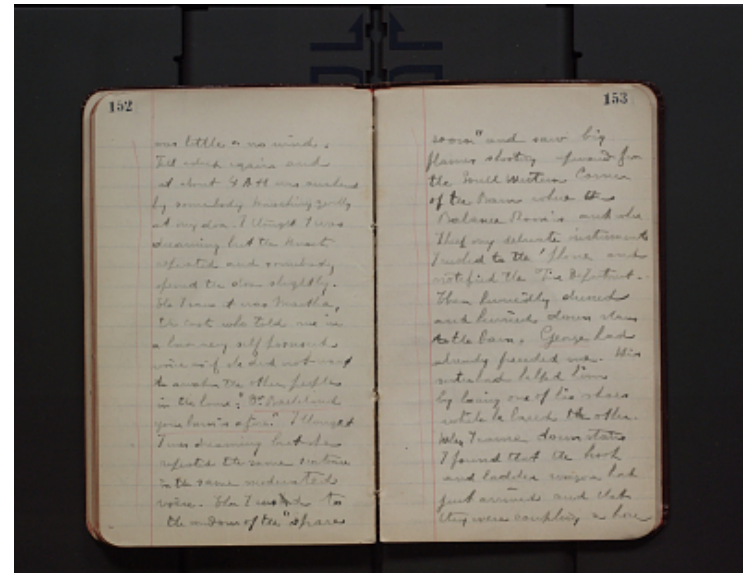
[[start page]]

153

[[vertical red line in margin]]

room" and saw big flames shooting upward from the South Western Corner of the Barn where the Balance room is and where I keep my delicate instruments. I rushed to the 'phone and notified the Fire Department. Then hurriedly dressed and hurried down stairs to the barn. George had already preceded me. His sister had helped him by lacing one of his shoes while he laced the other. When I came down stairs I found that the hook and ladder wagon had just arrived and that they were coupling a hose

[[end page]]



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

154

[[vertical red line in margin]]

to our private hydrogen A. In the meantime the fire was making progress but its main intensity centered in the balance room corner. Flames were licking Oppenheimer's barn and its Northern wall started burning. By this time the hose began to work and by wetting the wall of Oppenheimer, the fire was stemmed in that direction. Hoe [^]hose[^] was directed inside balance room where fierce fire was raging. Flames were leaping out in upper room then afterwards in center room where motor car

[[end page]]

[[start page]]

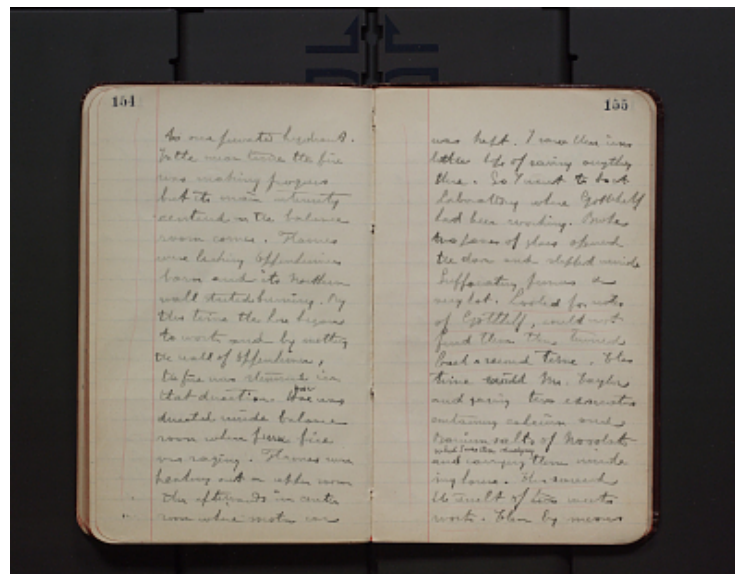
155

[[vertical red line in margin]]

was kept. I saw there was little hope of saving anything there. So I went to back laboratory where Gotthelf had been working. Broke two panes of glass opened the door and stepped inside. Suffocating fumes & very hot. Looked for notes of Gotthelf, could not find them then turned back a second time. This time with Mr. Taylor and saving two containing calcium and Barium salts of Novolak [^]which I was then studying[^] and carrying them inside my house. This saved the result of two months work.

[[/underlined]] Then by means

[[end page]]



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

156

[[vertical red line in margin]]

of Mr. Taylor and Mr. Haviland and others we saved Georges boat "the Mermaid" which was laying just outside the barn near northern wall. More wagons arrived extra hose coupled on private hydrant which was sending out now two streams altho' both lacked pressure and barely reached to second story which now was very much afire. Other hoseman coupled on hydrant on Argyle Place. Main door of entrance to barn hacked away. Looked like a blazing furnace

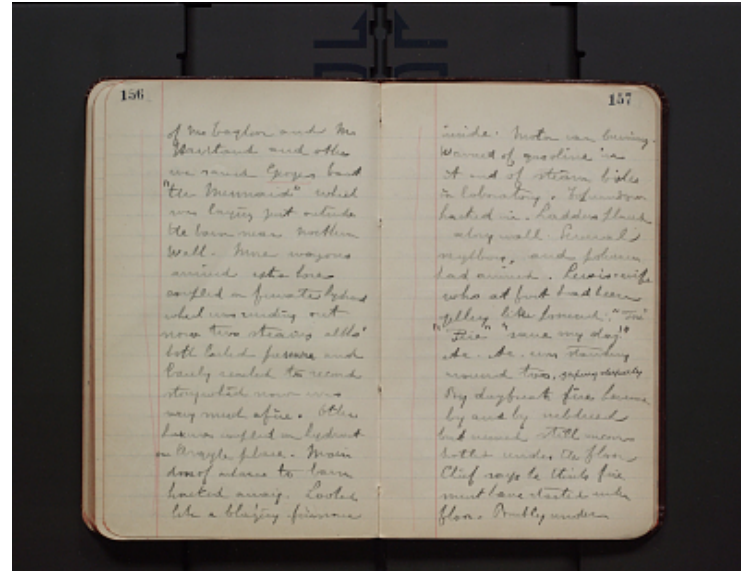
[[end page]]

[[start page]]

157

[[vertical red line in margin]]

inside. Motor car burning. Warned of gasoline in it and of steam boiler in laboratory. Top window hacked in. Ladders placed along wall. Several neighbors and policemen had arrived. Lewis' wife who at first had been yelling like possessed: "Fire" "Fire" "save my dog!" etc. etc. now standing around too, gaping stupidly. By daybreak fire became by and by subdued but seemed still uncontrolled under the floor. Chief says he thinks fire must have started under floor. Possibly under



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

158

ash pit of boiler. I first thought it was due to stove pipe but later observation showed me that this was impossible because I found unburnt coal on stove. at about Mch 3. 8. AM. everthing was finished 1909 but what a devastation!

Fortunately North Wing of stables are standing and my vacuum pan seems not to be much damaged so I shall be able to make some Bakelite pretty soon. My books very much dammaged by smoke and tar and water.

159

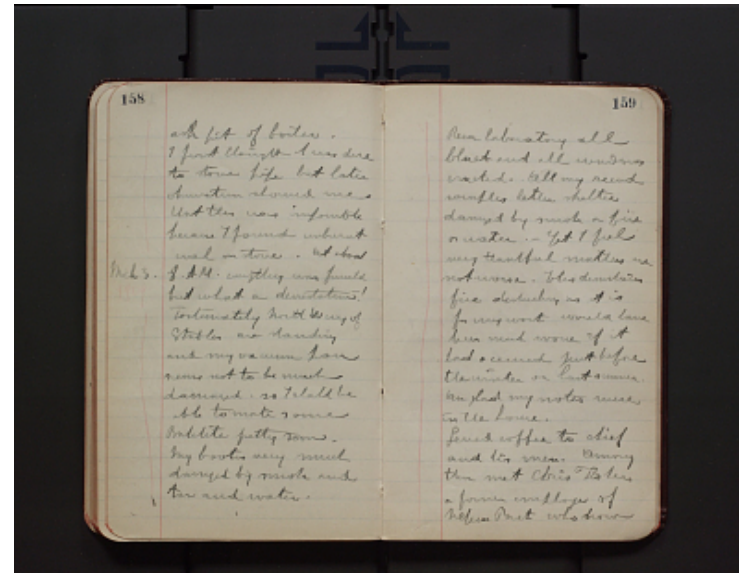
end page

start page

159

red line in left margin

Rear laboratory all black and all windows crusted. All my record samples helter skelter damaged by smoke or fire or water. - Yet I feel very thankful matters are not worse. This disastrous fire disturbing as it is for my work would have been much worse if it had occurred just before the winter or last summer am glad my notes were in the house. Served coffee to chief and his men. Among them met Chris Fisher a former employee of Nepera Park who shows



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

160

[[vertical red line in margin]]

from a mere boy of 18 has grown to a man of over thirty - says he is married for the second time. Nice behavior of firemen. I left a full box of cigars for them, yet they left half of them. Later on arrived Newman to verify my policies with his record. Then came Thurlow and Gotthelf who took short lunch with me. In afternoon arrived Dr. Wiechmann who came to consult me about his Protan an vegetable say vegetable Ivory wastes

[[end page]]

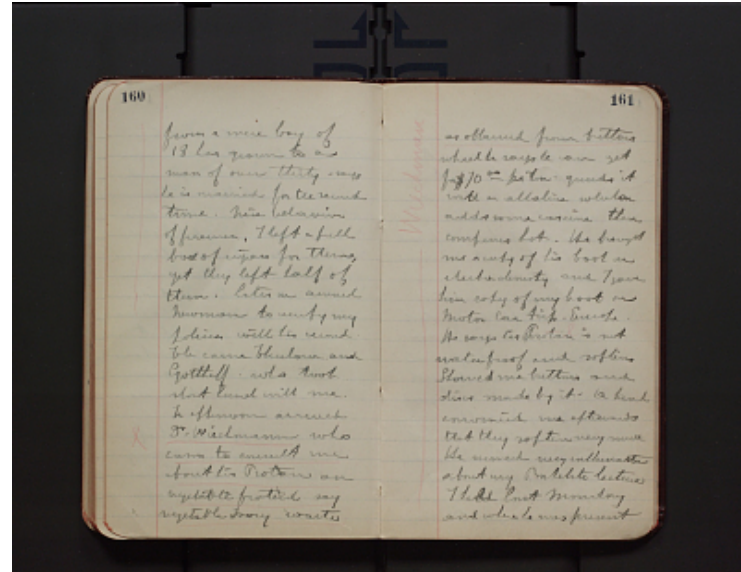
[[start page]]

161

[[marginal entry in red Wiechmann]] as obtained from buttons

[[/underlined]] which he says he can get for \$10.00 per ton. grinds it with alkaline solution adds some caseine then compresses hot. He brought me a copy of his book on electrochemistry and I gave him copy of my book on Motor Car trip Europe. He says his Protan is not waterproof and softens. Showed me buttons and discs made by it. A friend convinced me afterwards that they soften very much. He seemed very enthusiastic about my Bakelite lecture I held last Monday and where he was present

[[end page]]



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

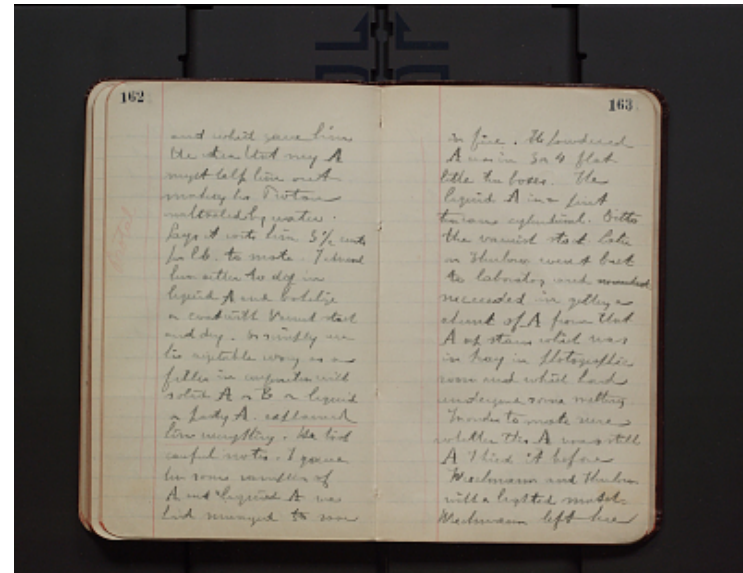
162

Protal

and which gave him the idea that my A might help him out making his Proton by water. Says it costs him 3 1/2 cents per lb. to make. I advised him either to dip in liquid A and bakelize a coat with Varnish stack and dry. Or simply use his vegetable ivory as a filter in conjunction with solid A or B or liquid or partly A. He explained him everything. He took careful notes. I gave him some samples of A and liquid A we had managed to save

163

The powdered A was in 3 or 4 flat little tin boxes. the liquid A in a pint tin can cylindrical. Ditto the varnish stock. Later on Thurlow went back to laboratory and succeeded in getting a chunk of A from that A up stairs which was in tray in photographic room and which had undergone some melting. In order to make sure whether this A was still A I tried it before Wiechmann and Thurlow with a lighted match. Wiechmann left here



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

164

by about 5 PM. and I accompanied him to trolley car.
Celine is in New York invited by Mrs. C.F. Cox. I spent evening with
children talking over the happenings of today. Will Anders came to see
me in his auto. Berolzheimer sent me letter of sympathies So did
Patsche call me up at 'phone.

[[vertical red line in margin]]

Lawyer of General Electric Co. sent me back yesterday the license I
send them; they sent it by registered letter disclaiming any acceptance of my rules. I wrote

[[end page]]

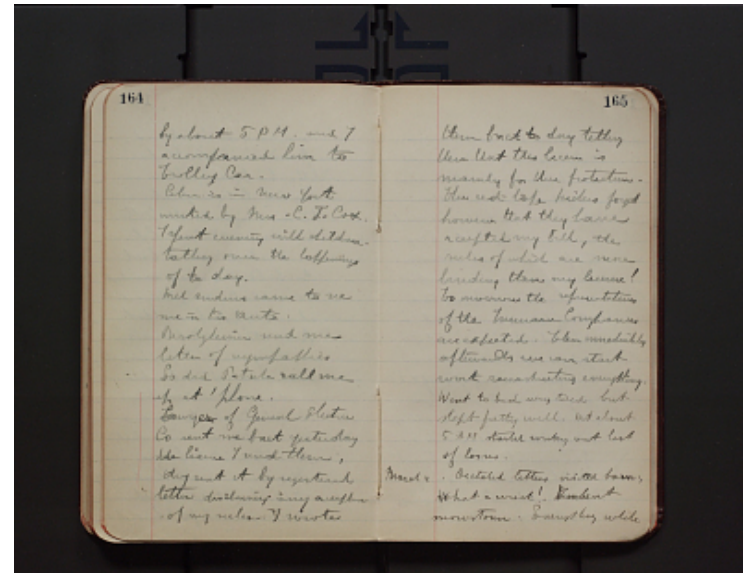
[[start page]]

165

them back today telling them that this license is mainly for their
protection. These red-tape kickers forget however that they have
accepted by bill, the rules of which are more binding than my license!
Tomorrow the representatives of the Insurance Companies are
expected. Then immediately afterwards we can start work
reconstructing everything. Went to bed very tired but slept pretty well.
At about 5 AM started writing out list of losses.

March 9. Dictated letters visited barn; What a wreck! Violent
snowstorm. Everything white

[[end page]]



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

166

Dictated letters all morning. At about 1 P.M. Newman came here with four insurance adjusters. One Mr. Arthur Bell seemed to be the most entertaining of the lot. Big log fire in hall. Seemed all very reasonable and gentlemanly. Gave them bit of lunch here. All refused wine one or two only smoked. Rather cheerful meeting, accepted my ~~losses~~ estimated loss for automobile so this settles this question. Dear old friend of an "old truck" that has served us so faithfully so many years, our trusty companion

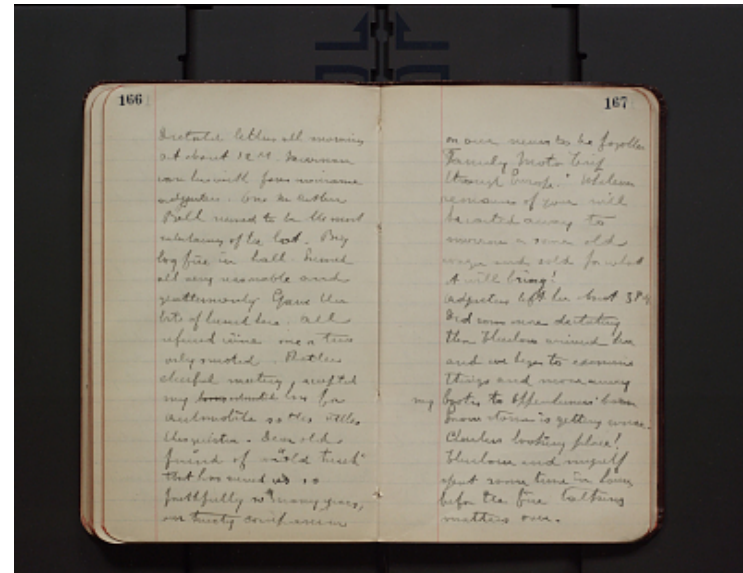
[[end page]]

[[start page]]

167

on our never to be forgotten Family Motor Trip through Europe." Whatever remains of you will be carted away to morrow on some old wagon and sold for what it will bring! Adjusters left here about 3 PM. Did some more dictating then Thurlow arrived here and we began to examine things and move away my books to Oppenheimer's barn. Snow storm is getting worse. Cheerless looking place! Thurlow and myself spent some time in house before the fire talking matters over.

[[end page]]



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

168

George brought home some rather exaggerated and amusing newspaper accounts of the fire as they had appeared in the three Yonkers newspapers. Cold windy night sweeps snow as spray. Went to barn with a candle to see if all water was out of vacuum pan jacket.

Cheerless look moon shining through roof. charcoal and devastation everywhere! Feels like a night mare.

Wiedmann calls me up at phone to tell me he has succeeded entirely with Bakelite + [[varnishes?]] seems as happy as a child

[[end page]]

[[start page]]

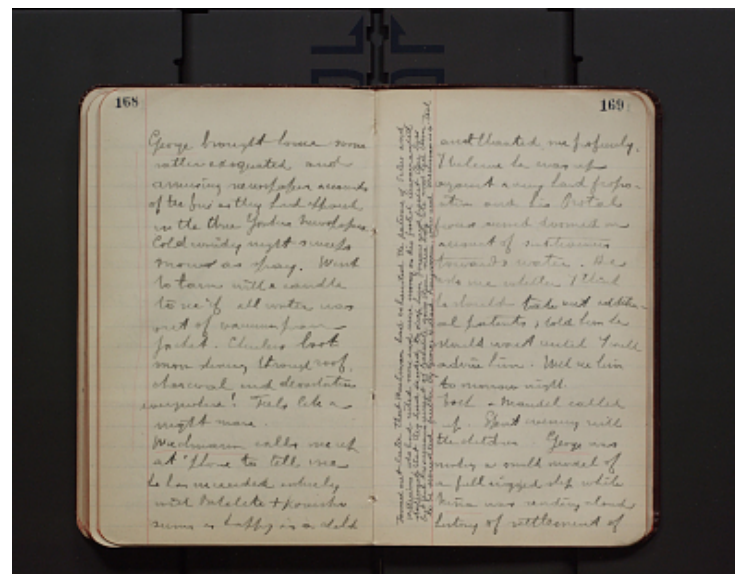
169

and thanked me profusely. I believe he was up against a very hard proposition and his Protal process seemed doomed on account of sensitiveness towards water. He asks me whether I think he should take out additional patents; told him he should wait until I could advise him. Will see him to-morrow night.

Bach & Mandel called up. Spent evening with the children.

[[u]] George [[/u]] was making a small model of a full rigged ship while [[u]] Nina [[/u]] was reading aloud history of settlement of

[[vertical entry in margin]] Found out later that Wiechmann had exhausted the patience of Peters and Williams who had risked more and more money on his foolish unwarranted statements that they had decided to drop him forever and pocket their loss but that his [[?]] cement of Bakelite gave them new hope etc. and led them to be swindled further by George Hilland Benjamin who used Wiechmann as a tool [[/vertical entry in margin]]



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

170

Maryland by Lord Baltimore. Restful happy feeling to see the children grow up so nicely.

Beautiful clear moonlight but very windy day.

March 5 Big snow fall. Blizzard has thrown up high snowbanks This makes matter rather difficult for outside work. Have to dig in the snow for locating curb. Planning new building & dictating letters. Afternoon went to New York to preside meeting of N.Y. Section Am. Chem. Society.

Wiechman was at Savoy Hotel. He showed ~~him~~ me what he has accomplished with Bakelite

[[end page]]

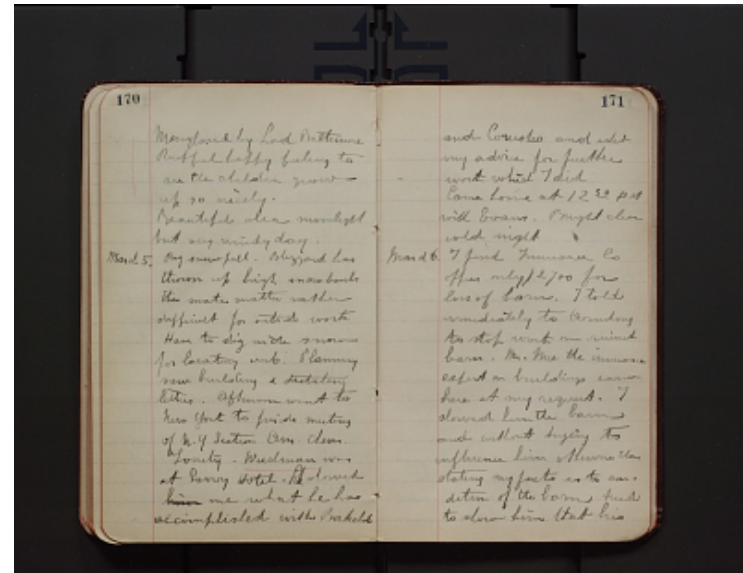
[[start page]]

171

and Corusko and asked my advice for further work which I did. Came home at 12:30 P.M with Evans. Bright clear cold night.

March 6. I find Insurance Co. offers only \$2700 for loss of barn. I told immediately to Armstrong to stop work on ruined barn. Mr. Mee the insurance expert on buildings came here at my request. I showed him the barn and without trying to influence him otherwise than stating my facts as to condition of the barn and to show him that his

[[end page]]



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

172

estimate was too low. Weather has become milder. Evening felt very tired. Rested about half an hour then went to Anvil assembled at Hagemans. Speaker. C.F. Cox: The Moral influence of Darwinism. An excellent paper. I should like to see it printed. Walked home with Tilsley.

March 7. Sunday. Mild weather beginning thaw. Spent all day making plans for my laboratory. Mr. Wacker came here to give some suggestions as to design of construction, modifying somewhat my own

[[end page]]

[[start page]]

173

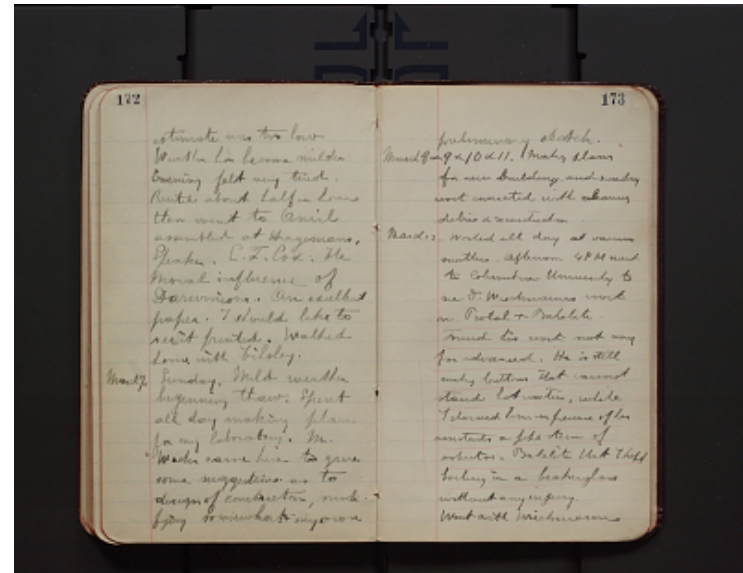
preliminary sketch.

March 8&9&10&11. Making plans for new building and sundry work connected with clearing debris & reconstruction.

March 12. Worked all day at various matters. Afternoon 4 PM went to Columbia University to see Dr. Wiechmanns work on Protal + Bakelite. Found his work not very far advance. He is still making buttons that cannot stand hot water, while I showed him in presence of his assistants a pipe stem of asbestos-Bakelite that I left boiling in a beakerglass without any injury. [[underlined]]

Went with Wiechmann

[[end page]]



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

174

to his flat where I took a cup of tea. Mrs. Wiechman was there. Then took supper at University Club and came home about 11 P.M. Several letters and congratulations from Ghent and also a number of [[Monde liberale?]] announcing the news of Bakelite as given by the Herald and the Sun.

March 13 Insurance adjuster Mr. Dell came here this morning with Newman and he was very reasonable and proposed a very fair [[?]] of settlement.

Tom got the boiler in shape again.

[[end page]]

[[start page]]

175

[[marginal entry in red]] Laid off

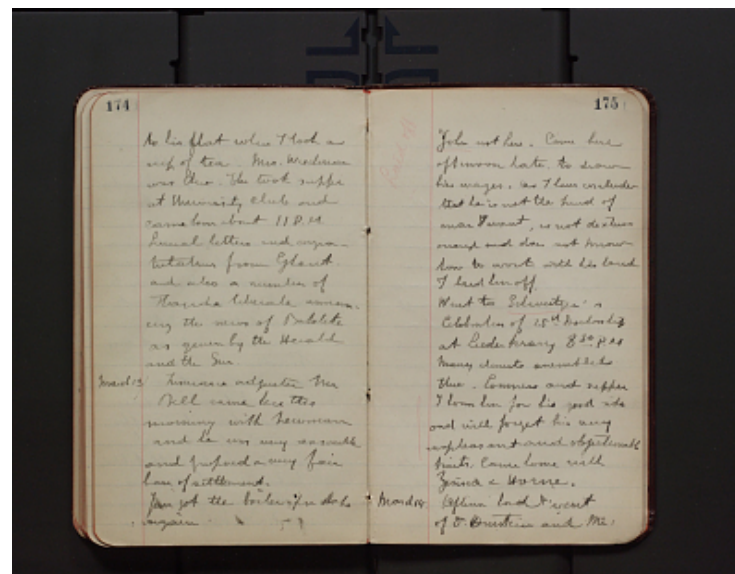
[[underlined]] John [[?]] not here. Came here afternoon late to draw his wages. As I have concluded that he is not the kind of man I want, is not dexterous enough and does not know how to work with his hand I laid him off.

Went [[Schweitzer's]] Celebration of 25th

Doctorship at Liederkranz 8:30 P.M. Many chemists assembled there. [[?]] and supper. I honor him for his good side and will forget his very unpleasant and objectionable parts. Came home with Zinna & Horne.

March 14. After lunch I went of. Dr. Ornstein and Mr.

[[end page]]



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

176

Trinks. The former is a very much cut-up faced german who speaks english fluently The latter is an englishman who has studied in Germany and is an electrical engineer who seems very well acquainted with his subject. After supper I showed them my work on Bakelite.

15 March. Armstrong begins digging for foundation of new lab.

March 16 Cold windy weather. Butler and Jim are replanting privet along Oppenheimer line.

March 17. Some work. This morning while dictating letters got cablegram from Chemiker Zeitung asking at what terms my

[[end page]]

[[start page]]

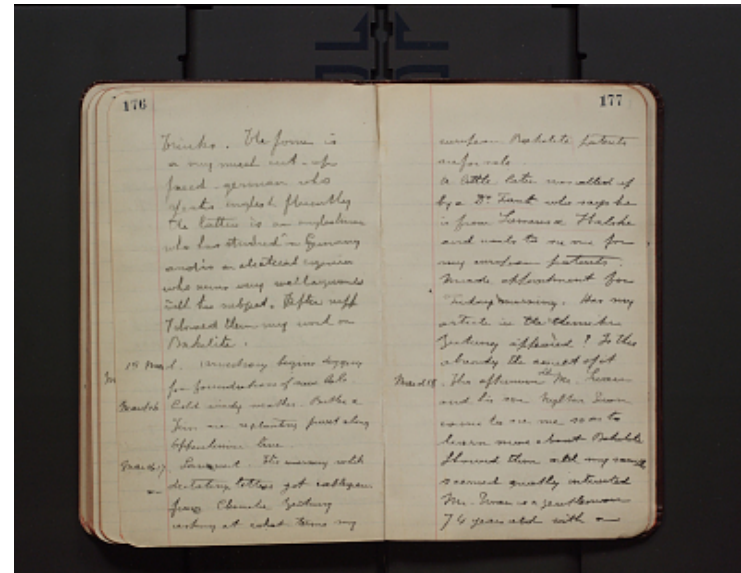
177

European Bakelite patents are for sale.

A little later was called up by a Dr. Frank who says he is from Siemens & Halske and wants to see me for my European patents. Made appointment for Friday morning. Has my article in the Chemiker Zeitung appeared? Is this already the result of it.

March 18. This afternoon old Mr. Swan and his son Hylton Swan came to see me so as to learn more about Bakelite. Showed them all my samples seemed greatly interested Mr. Swan is a gentleman 74 years old with a

[[end page]]



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

[[preprinted]] 178 [[/preprinted]]
magnificent crop of long white silken hair and long flowing beard.
Resembles much his brother Sir Joseph whose acquaintance I made
just twenty years ago when he wanted to use my water developing
dryplate patent on royalty. Mr. Swan tells me Hyatt the inventor of
celluloid wants to meet me and use Bakelite instead of celluloid for
billiard balls.

[[margin]] March 19 [[/margin]] Shriill cold weather. Evening went to
University Club for supper then Chemists Club. Meeting of S. Chem.
Ind. Met Dr. Ornstein told him would make appointment

[[end page]]

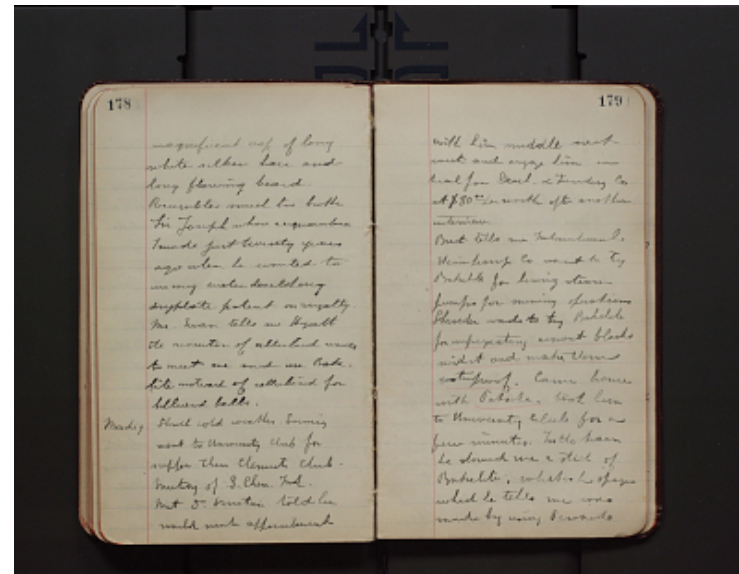
[[start page]]

[[preprinted]] 179 [[/preprinted]]
with him middle next week and engage him on trial for Devel. & Funding
Co. at \$80.00 per month after another interview.

Boch tells me International Steampump Co want to try Bakelite for lining
steam pumps for mining operations Schroeder wants to try Bakelite for
[[underlined]] impregnating cement blocks with it and make them
waterproof. [[/underlined]] Came home with [[underlined]] Petsche.

[[/underlined]] took him to University Club for a few minutes. In the
train he showed me a stick of Bakelite whitish opaque which he tells me
was made by using Peroxide

[[end page]]



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

180

of sodium. Told him that the latter simply acts as an alkali.

March 20 Planting trees. I have a cold in my head. Shril cold wind. Foundations finished since yesterday. Clearing ruins.

Evening went to University Club annual meeting and election. Met Hooker, Remington, Doremus, Anthony and Moore. Took supper with Moore and talked about Bakelite and his brother.

March 22. A quiet restful day. Dost of Dost & Brandt came here without appointment. Said he would

[[end page]]

[[start page]]

181

only want a few minutes to find out whether he could obtain Bakelite or not. When I told him yes, he seemed satisfied.

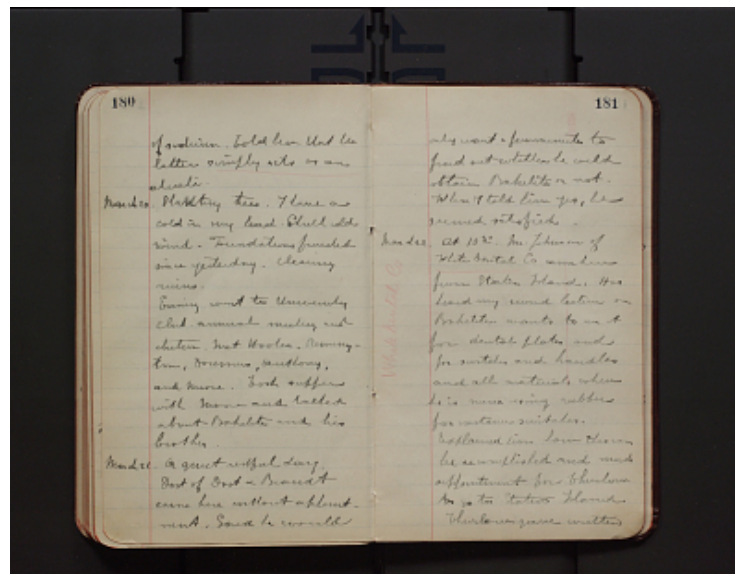
March 22. At 10:30 Mr. Johnson of White Dental

Co came here from Staten Island. Has heard my White Dental Co. written vertically in red in margin

second lecture on Bakelite. wants to use it for dental plates and for switches and handles and all materials where he is now using rubber for instance switches.

Explained him how this can be accomplished and made appointment for Thurlow to go to Staten Island. Thurlow gave written

[[end page]]



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

182

report of his visit to Florence Mfg. Co. and to Dickinson Co. Springfield, Mass.

The first have made already few hundred of Bakelized brushes - The latter have ~~made~~ ~~insulating material of their own but want to use Bakelite. In the afternoon - visit of Moore's brother - who formerly was with Winchester Arms Co. Came to see whether he could find occupation as my business agent. Told him matter was too little advanced yet altho' I believed that later on I shall need~~

the name Sternberg written vertically in red in margin two times

end page

start page

183

one of the kind.

March 23. Milder weather. I get somewhat impatient because lumber is not here to start

circle with dot in center in margin

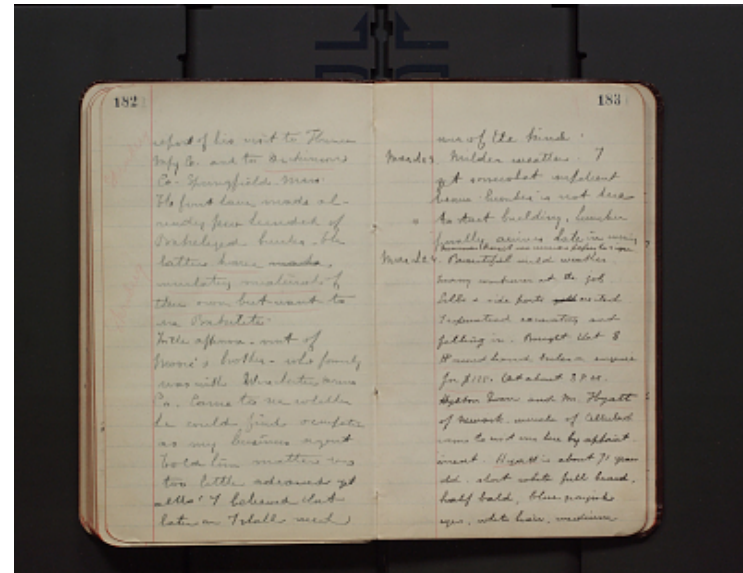
building. Lumber finally arrives late in evening.

Newman brought one insurance paper to sign.

March 24. Beautiful mild weather. Many workmen at the job. Sills & side parts ~~erected~~ ~~erected~~ erected I superintend excavating and filling in. Bought that 8 HP second hand boiler & engine for \$125. At about 3 P.M. Hylton Swan and Mr. Hyatt of Newark inventor of celluloid came to visit me here by appointment.

Hyatt is about 71 years old, short white full beard, half bald, blue grayish eyes, white hair, medium

end page



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

184

[[marginal entry written vertically in red]] Hyatt [[/marginal entry]] size, inclined to elderly stoutness, rather intelligent looking, shows it more when he gets in conversation. Some signs of short breath. interposes his narratives with once in awhile a pithy remark and a full hearty laugh. I asked him to tell me the story of celluloid. Told me he was a painter by trade and his father a blacksmith and the latter a fervent methodist so much so that he gave him as second name "Wesley". Had an older brother who is dead now and attended more specially to business matters. Has still a younger brother living. Hyatt's methodism seems to have changed very much to the most liberal philosophical beliefs as described

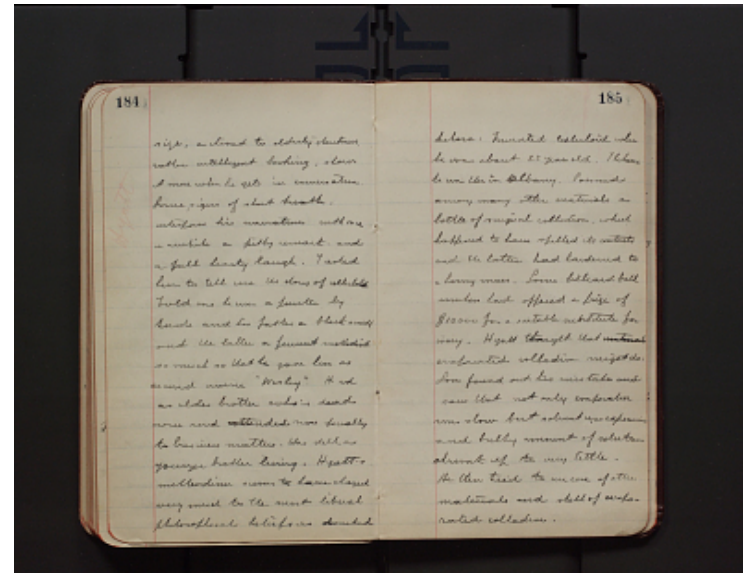
[[end page]]

[[start page]]

185

below. Invented celluloid when he was about 25 years old. I believe he was then in Albany. Possessed among many other materials a bottle of surgical collodion, which happened to have spilled its contents and the latter had hardened to a horny mass. Some billiard ball makers had offered a prize of \$10,000 for a suitable substitute for ivory. Hyatt thought that ~~materials~~ evaporated collodion might do. Soon found out his mistake and saw that not only evaporation was slow but solvent was expensive and bulky amount of solution shrank up to very little. He then tried to use core of other materials and shell of evaporated collodion.

[[end page]]



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

186

Then tried to reduce solvent more and more and press mass into balls. Soon found that quality of nitrocellulose was much dependent on quality of cellulose. Found that Ramie fibre was better than anything else. Had to pay exorbitant price of it. Ramie imported from China. A certain firm bought up whole supply for other purposes and cornered market. Constructed special heating machine same as used for paper making so as to grind his nitrocellulose very fine ^had trouble with iron, yellow colored product very objectionable, finally overcame this trouble. Instead of dissolving nitrocellulose in solvent and then evaporating or

compressing

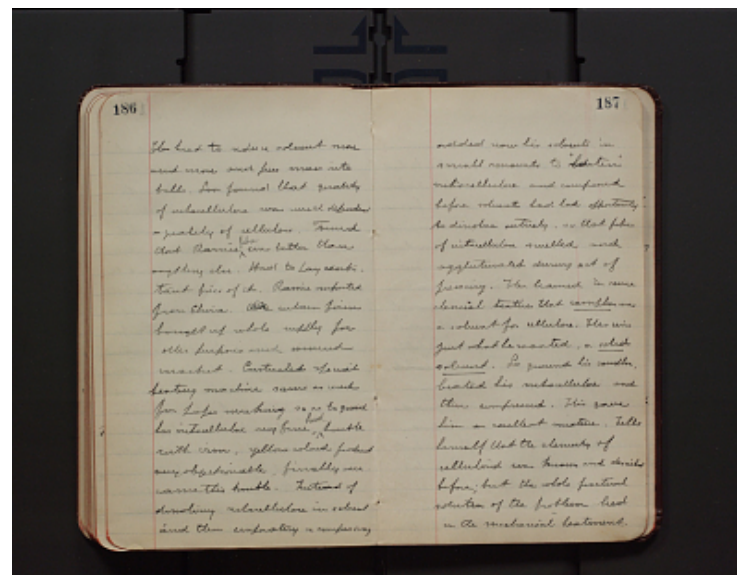
[[end page]]

[[start page]]

187

added now his solvents in small amounts to "[[neaten?]]" nitrocellulose and compressed before solvents had had opportunity to dissolve entirely so that fibres of nitrocellulose swelled and agglutinated during act of pressing. Then learned in some chemical treatises that camphor was a solvent for cellulose. This was just what he wanted, a solid solvent. So ground his camphor, heated his nitrocellulose and then compressed. This gave him an excellent mixture. Tells himself that the chemistry of celluloid was known and described before; but the whole functional solution of the problem lied in the mechanical treatment.

[[end page]]



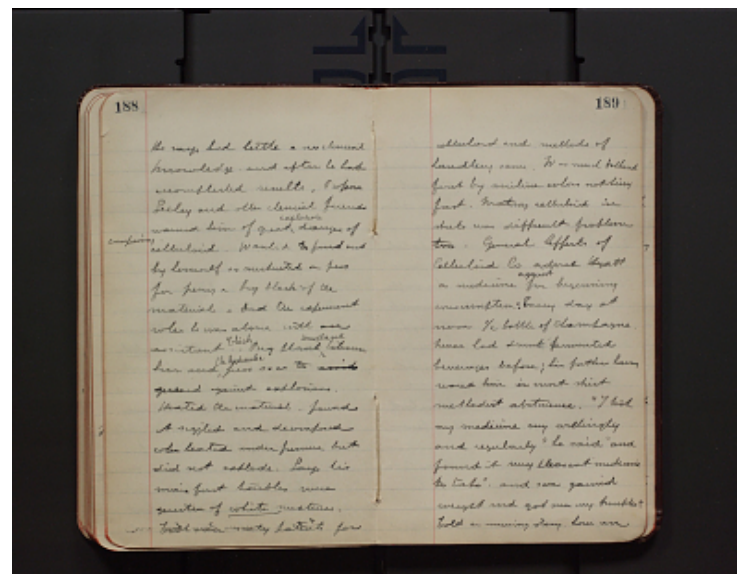
Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

188

He says had little or no chemical knowledge and after he had accomplished results, Professor Seeley and other chemical friends warned him of great explosive danger of compressing celluloid. Wanted to find out by himself so constructed a press for pressing a big block of the material. did the experiment when he was alone with an assistant. Thick Big plank was placed between him and the hydraulic press so as to avoid guard against explosions. Heated the material. found it sizzled and decomposed when heated under pressure but did not explode. Says his main first troubles were question of white mixtures. Took over sixty patents for

189

celluloid and methods of handling same. Was much bothered first by aniline colors not being fast. Making celluloid in sheets was difficult problem too. General Lefferts of Celluloid Co advised Hyatt a medicine against for beginning consumption: Every day at noon 1/2 bottle of champagne. Never had drunk fermented beverages before; his father having reared him in most strict methodist abstinence. "I took my medicine very willingly and regularly" he said "and found it very pleasant medicine to take". and soon gained weight and got over my troubles". Told an amusing story how an

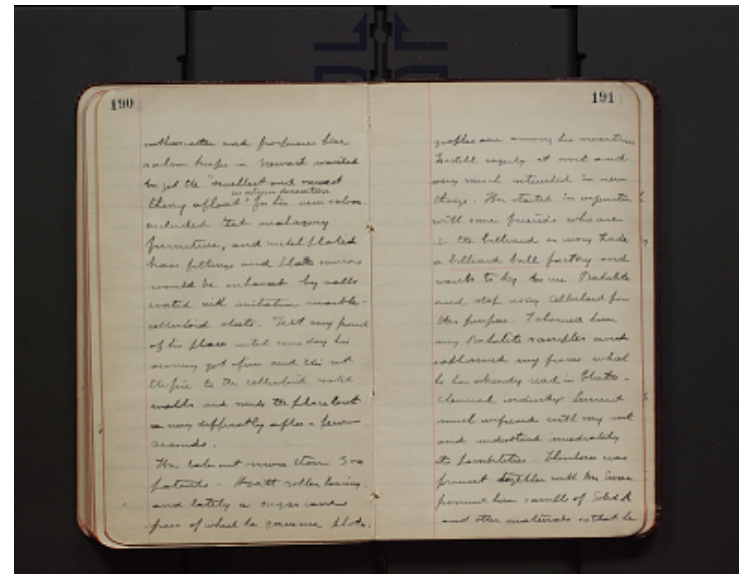


Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

190 enthusiastic and prosperous beer saloon keeper in Newark wanted to get the "swellest and newest thing afloat" ^{as interior decoration} for his new saloon. concluded that mahogany furniture, and nickel plated brass fittings and plate mirrors would be enhanced by walls coated with imitation marble-celluloid sheets. Felt very proud of his place until some day his awning got afire and this set the fire to the celluloid coated walls and made the place look ~~very differently~~ very differently after a few seconds. Has taken out more than 300 patents. Hyatt roller bearing. and lately a sugar cane press of which he gave me photo -

191

graphs are among his inventions. He's still eagerly at work and very much interested in new things. He started in conjunction with some friends who are in the billiard or ivory trade a billiard ball factory and wants to try to use Bakelite and stop using celluloid for this purpose. I showed him my Bakelite samples and explained my process which he has already read in Electro-Chemical industry. Seemed much impressed with my work and understood immediately its possibilities. Thurlow was present together with Mr. Swan. promised him a sample of Solid A and other materials so that he



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
 Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
 Approved by Smithsonian Staff
 Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

[[preprinted]] 192 [[/preprinted]]

might try. Offered him to send Thurlow. He said he was willing to make a bet that from the first time he tries Bakelite he would make a good billiard ball out of it. Examined my old billiard ball samples, knocked them together, struck them hard, made me listen to their "song" when gently knocked together etc.

Says he makes "pins" and balls for ten pin games bowling by simply compressing soft wood so as to increase its density

I told him how we do same thing but after first impregnating with Bakelite.

Took a plan of my old white port. Showed him my view from tower. Gave him and Swan copy of my Motor trip

[[end page]]

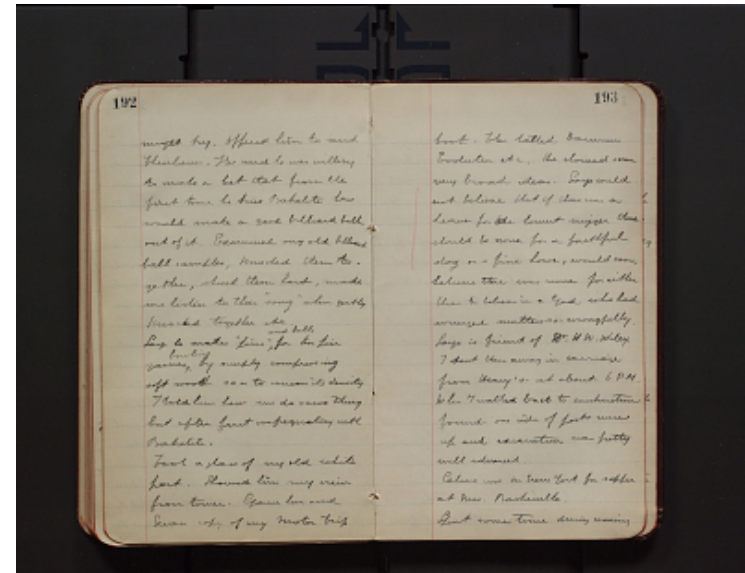
[[start page]]

[[preprinted]] 193 [[/preprinted]]

book. We talked Darwinian Evolution etc. He showed some very broad ideas. Says could not believe that if there was a heaven for the lowest nigger there should be none for a faithful dog or a fine horse, would sooner believe there was none for either than to believe in a God who had arranged matters so wrongfully. Says is friend of Dr. H W. Wiley. I sent them away in carriage from Heavy's at about 6 P.M. When I walked back to construction found one side of posts were up and excavation was pretty well advanced.

Celine was in New York for supper at Mrs. Baskville.

Spent some time during evening



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

[[preprinted]] 194 [[/preprinted]]

with George in hall. Home lesson of arithmetic. Fine looking intelligent boy he is. Would like to have his picture as he sits in big chair, doing his arithmetics, his fine mop of hair slantingly covers half of his broad forehead. Went to bed early but got awakened about 2 P.M. It rains, work will probably be stopped tomorrow.

[[margin]] March 25. Fine Weather, Carpenters and laborers very busy with new building. Dictated letters then helped some tree planting.

[[margin]] March 26 George made tracing of Bakelizer and I promised him one Dollar for his work. the boy shows excellent tendencies. He made a section elevation and plan

[[start page]]

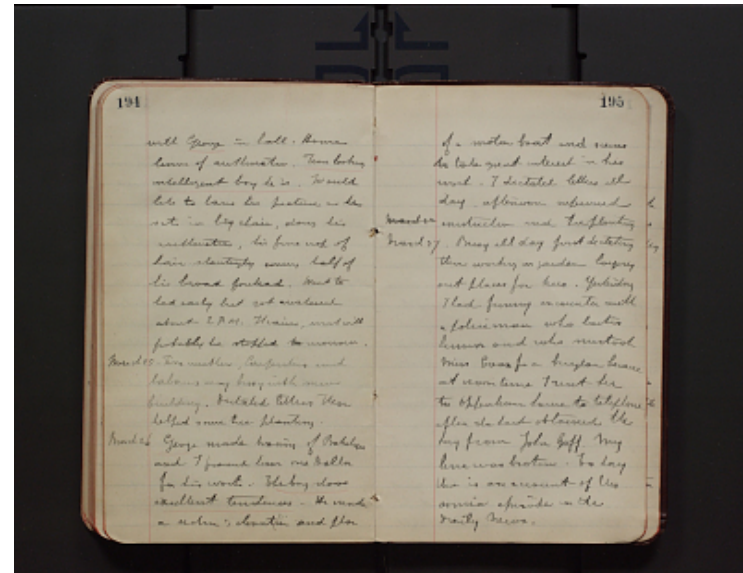
[[stamped page number]] 195 [[/stamp]]

of a motor boat and seems to take great interest in his work. I dictated letters all day. afternoon observed

[[left margin, strikethrough]] March 27 ~~[[/margin/strikethrough]]~~ construction and tree planting

[[left margin]] March 27 ~~[[/margin note]]~~ Busy all day first dictating then working in garden laying out places for trees. Yesterday I had funny encounter with a policeman who lacks humor and who mistook Miss Evan for a burglar because at noon time I sent her to Oppenheimer home to telephone after she had obtained the key from John Goff. My line was broken. Today there is an account of this comic episode in the Daily News.

[[end page]]



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

[[preprinted]] 196 [[/preprinted]]

Evening went to University Club. Albert H. Hooker had supper with me. Then we went to Chemists Club. Smoker. Demonstration of acetylene-oxygen welding. Took Subway at 11.30 with Evans and Rebman.

[[margin]] March 28 (Sunday) [[/margin]] Has rained during night cleared up in morning. I traced lines for new roads. Alb H. Hooker & Mrs. Hooker and Dr. Ornstein here for dinner Conference with Hooker & Ornstein relative liquified chlorine,

[[margin]] 1/2 X [[/margin]] acetic anhydride & by products charge 1/2 day.

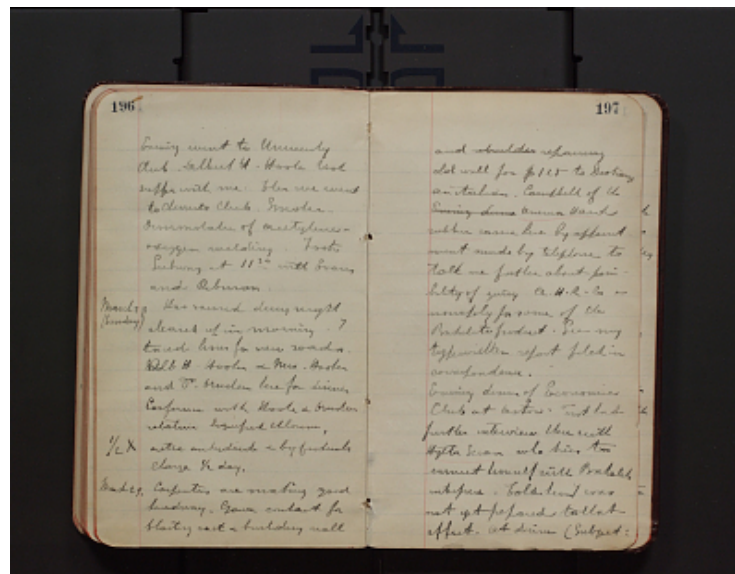
[[margin]] March 29 [[/margin]] Carpenters are making good headway. Gave contract for blasting rack & building wall

[[end page]]

[[start page]]

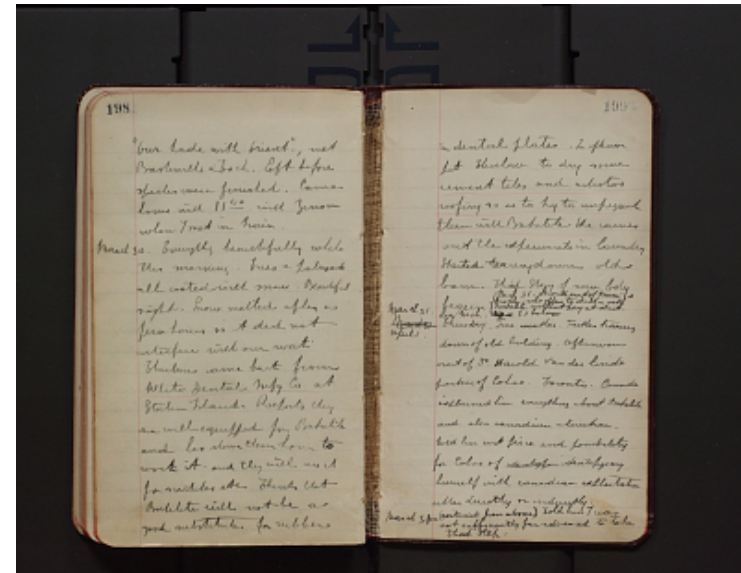
[[preprinted]] 197 [[/preprinted]]

and ~~rebuilt~~ repairing old wall for \$125 to ~~an Italian~~ an Italian. Campbell of the ~~Evening~~ America Hard Rubber came here by appointment made by telephone to talk me further about possibility of giving A.H.R Co a monopoly for some of the Bakelite product. See my typewritten report filed in correspondence. Evening dinner of Economics Club at Astor. First had further interview there with Hylton Swan who tries to connect himself with Bakelite enterprise. Told him I was not yet prepared to that effect. At dinner (Subject:



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

198
 "Our trade with Orient.", met Baskeville & Toch. Left before speakers were finished. Came home with 11.40 with Jenssen whom I met in train.
 March 30
 Everything beautifully white this morning. Trees & [?] all coated with snow. Beautiful sight. Snow melted after a few hours so it did not interfere with our work. Thulow came back from White Dental Mfg Co at Staten Island. Reports they are well equipped for Bakelite and has shown them how to work it and they will use it for switches etc. Thinks that Bakelite will not be a good substitute for rubber
 end page
 start page
 199
 in dental plates. In afternoon put Thulow to dry some cement tiles and asbestos roofing so as to try to impregnate them with Bakelite. He carries out the experiments in laundry. Started tearing down old barn. Third story of new bldg begun.
 Mch. 31 Second visit of Moore's brother who offers to start in with Bakelite without pay at start. See Mch. ~~30~~ & ~~31~~ below
 March 31 ~~March 31~~ April 1
 Thursday. Fine weather. Further tearing down of old building. Afternoon visit of Dr Harold Van der Linde partner of Cohoe. Toronto. Canada explained him everything about Bakelite and also canadian situation. Told him cost price and possibility for Cohoe of ~~identify~~ identifying himself with canadian exploitation either directly or indirectly.
 March 31 (continued from above.) Told him I was not sufficiently far advanced to take that step.



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
 Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
 Approved by Smithsonian Staff
 Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

[[preprinted]] 200 [[/preprinted]]

[[margin]] April 2. [[/margin]]

Fined weather again Building advances rapidly Evening dinner with Barkerville at Engineers Club = Banrcroft, Turrentine, Lnaeoinés & Evans present. Very enjoyable affair. Meeting of N.Y. Section of the A.E.S. lasted until 11:30 PM. Went home with Evans.

April 3. More good weather. Helps building much delayed somewhat by non arrival of materials. At 3 P.M. visited Takamine at his office in 173 st. Neat 3 story dwelling house. neat office. lab. upstairs, not invited in lab. He told me that as soon as ready to send sampes & instructions Bakelite will be taken up. Afterwards went to Fensophs. 4 P.M. Foster, Dr. Goulet, Haneman, Richards, Neivel and Rebman there. Took supper at Mougouin uptown. Then meeting at Chemist Club for International Congress 1912. All seems favorable and enthusiastic. Nichols presided. Action of Congress obtained. But no subsidy. we shall have to hustle.

[[margin]] Blasting of rock near vegetable gardens was finished yesterday and to day rock is being cleared. [[/margin]]

[[end page]]

[[start page]]

201 [[inside back cover]]

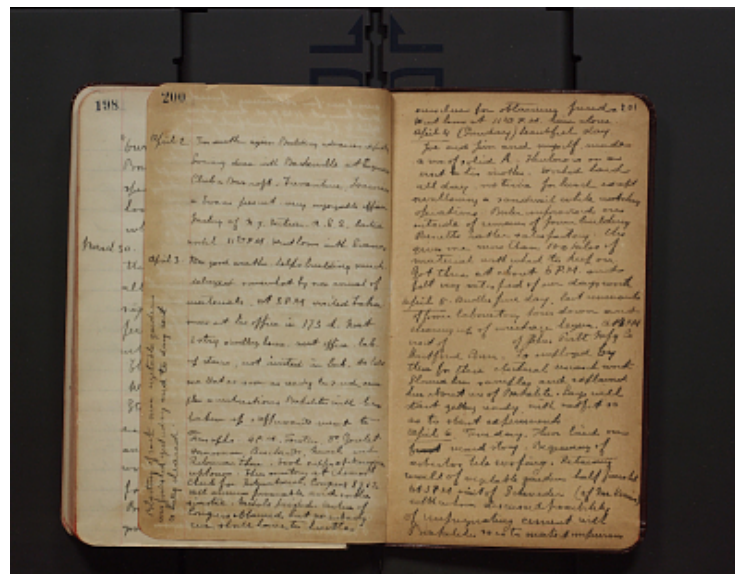
ourselves for obtaining funds. Went home at 11:40 P.M. train alone.

April 4. (Sunday) Beautiful day. Joe and Jim and myself made a run of solid A. Thurlow is on a visit to his mother. Worked hard all day. no time for lunch except swallowing a sandwich while watching operations. boiler improvised area outside of remains of former building. Results rather satisfactory. This gives me more than 100 kilos of material with which to keep on. Got thru at about 6 P.M. and felt very satisfied of our days work.

April 5. Another fine day. Last remnants of former laboratory torn down and clearing up of wreckage begun. At 8 P.M. visit of [[blank space]] of John Pratt Mfg. Co Hartford, Conn. Is employed by them for their electrical research work. Showed him samples and explained him about use of Bakelite. Says will start getting ready with outfit so as to start experiments.

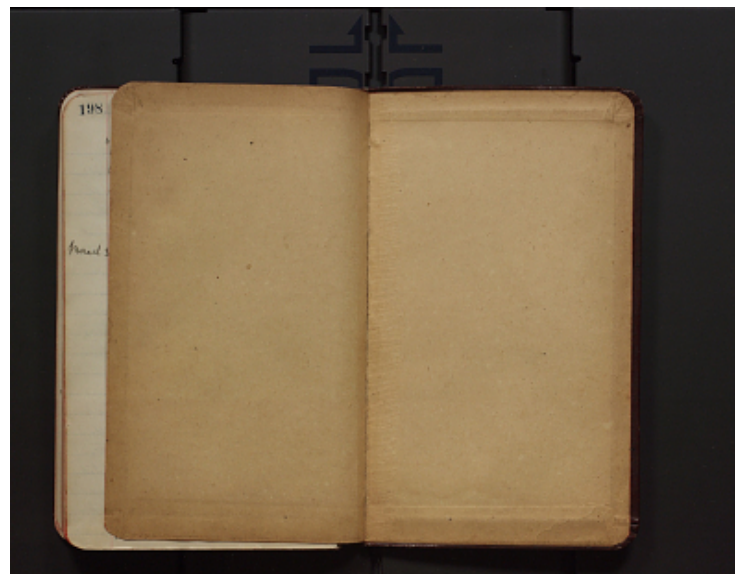
April 6. Fine day. Floor laid on first story. Beginning of asbestos tile roofing. Retaining wall of vegetable garden half finished. At 3 P.M. visit of Schroeder of (McKenna) with whom discussed possibility of impregnating cement with Bakelite so as to make it impervious.

[[end page]]



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18

[[blank page]]
[[end page]]
[[start page]]
[[blank page]]



Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 3, 1908-1909
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Jul-15-2014 09:50:18



Smithsonian Institution

Archives Center - NMAH

The mission of the Smithsonian is the increase and diffusion of knowledge - shaping the future by preserving our heritage, discovering new knowledge, and sharing our resources with the world. Founded in 1846, the Smithsonian is the world's largest museum and research complex, consisting of 19 museums and galleries, the National Zoological Park, and nine research facilities. Become an active part of our mission through the Transcription Center. Together, we are discovering secrets hidden deep inside our collections that illuminate our history and our world.

Join us!

The Transcription Center: <https://transcription.si.edu>

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SmithsonianTranscriptionCenter>

On Twitter: [@TranscribeSI](https://twitter.com/TranscribeSI)

Connect with the Smithsonian

Smithsonian Institution: www.si.edu

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Smithsonian>

On Twitter: [@smithsonian](https://twitter.com/smithsonian)