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*Archives Center - NMAH*

## **Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 17, 1915**

Extracted on Apr-16-2024 06:34:08

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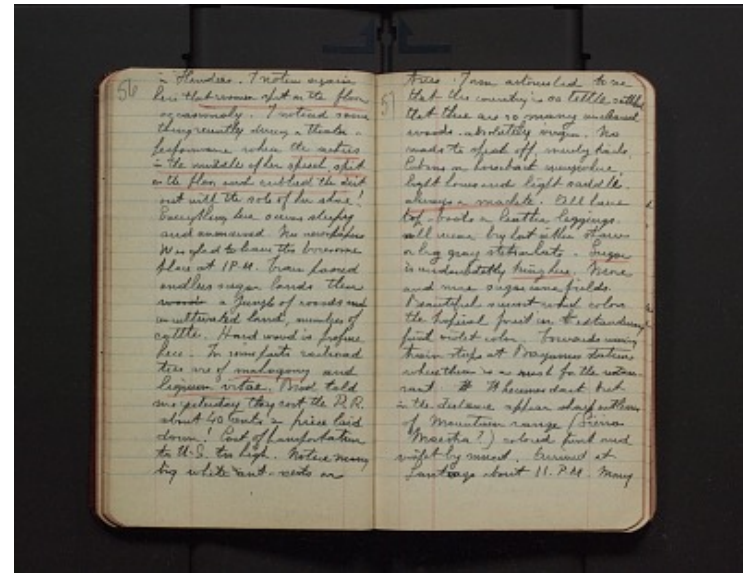
in Flanders. I notice again here that women spit on the floor occasionally. I noticed same thing recently during a theatre performance when the actress in the middle of her speech spit on the floor and rubbed the dirt out with the sole of her shoe!

Everything here seems sleepy and unconcerned. No newspapers. Was glad to leave this boring place at 1 P.M. Train passed endless sugar lands then ~~woods~~ a jungle of woods and uncultivated land, number of cattle. Hard wood is profuse here. In some parts railroad ties are of mahogany and lignum vitae. Brod told me yesterday they cost the RR. about 40 cents a piece laid down! Cost of transportation to U.S. too high. Notice many big white ant-nests on

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trees. I am astonished to see that this country is so little settled that there are so many uncleared woods, absolutely virgin. No roads to speak of, merely trails. Cubans on horseback everywhere, light horses and light saddle, always a machete. Sugar is undoubtedly king here. More and more sugar cane fields. Beautiful sunset which color the tropical forest in ~~b~~ extraordinary pink violet color. Towards evening train stops at Bayamo station where there is a rush for the restaurant. ~~It~~ It becomes dark but in the distance appear sharp outlines of Mountain range (Sierra Maestra?) colored pink and violet by sunset. Arrived at Santiago about 11 P.M. Many



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