



Smithsonian Institution

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Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 24, 1917-1918

Extracted on Feb-07-2023 04:47:37

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Yaphank, L.I.

Dec. 14. Last night violent snow storm, wind, thunder and lightning. House shook all night. This morning calmer but everything snowed in. Trolley cars not running.

No possibility of using motor car. With Albert, Alexander and James and the aid of the gardner of Wheelers who came with his snowplow succeeded after half a day in opening a passage for motor car to Broadway but no possibility of going further.

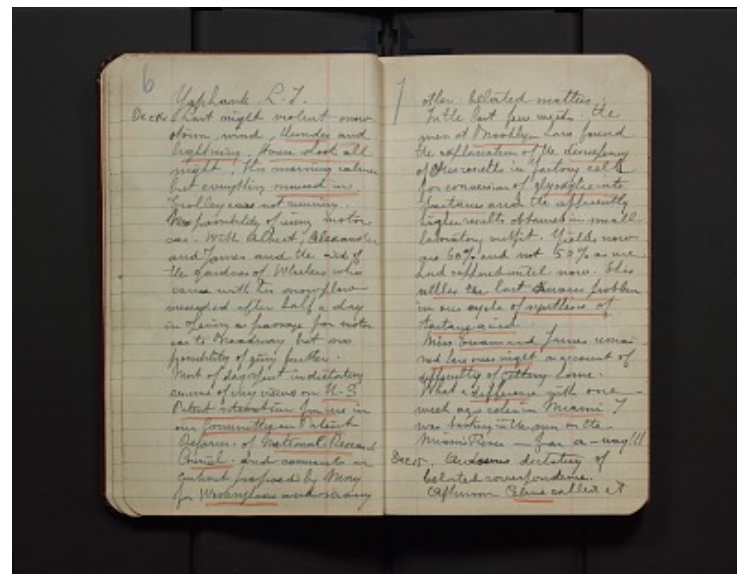
Most of day spent in dictating resume of my views on U.S Patent situation for use in our Committee on Patent Reform of National Research Council, and comments on content proposed by May for Westinghouse and many

other belated matters. In the last few weeks the men at Brooklyn have found the explanation of the discrepancy of our results in factory cell for conversion glyoxylic into tartaric and the apprently higher results obtained in small laboratory outfit. Yields now are 60% and not 50% as we had supposed until now. This settles the last serious problem in our cycle of synthesis of tartaric acid.

Miss Evans and James remained here over night on account of difficulty of getting home. What a difference with one week ago when in Miami

River -- far a-way!!!

Dec 15. Arduous dictating of belated correspondence. Afternoon Celine called at



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