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## **Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 28, 1919-1920**

Extracted on Apr-17-2024 04:17:37

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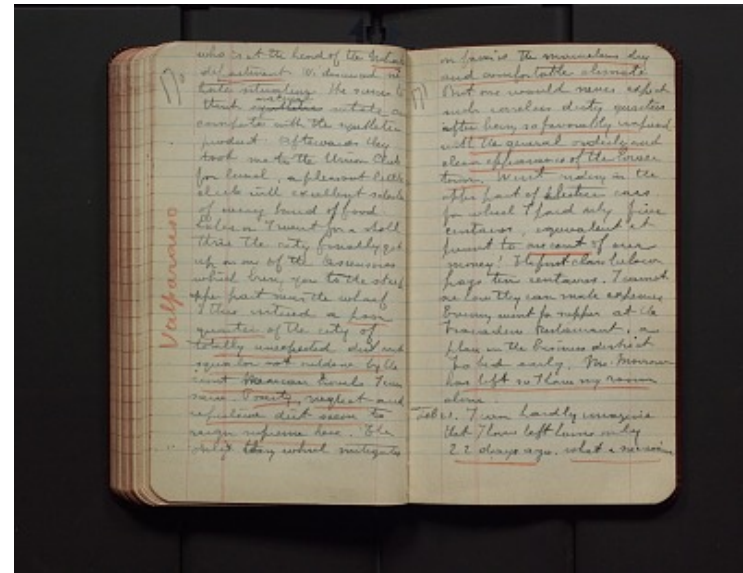
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[[margin, red pencil, written vertically]] Valparaiso [[/margin, red pencil, written vertically]]

who is at the head of the Nitrate department.  
 We discussed nitrate situation. He seems to think ~~synthetic~~ natural nitrate can compete with the synthetic product. Afterwards they took me to the Union Club for lunch, a pleasant little club with excellent selection of every kind of food. Later on I went for a stroll thru the city finally got up on one of the Ascensores which bring you to the steep upper part near the wharf I thus entered a poor quarter of the city of totally unexpected dust and squalor not outdone by the worst Mexican hovels I ever saw. Poverty, neglect and repulsive dirt seem to reign supreme here. The only thing which mitigates  
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in favor is the marvelous dry and comfortable climate But one would never expect such careless dirty quarters after being so favorably impressed with the general orderly and clean appearance of the lower town.  
 Went riding in the upper part of electric cars. for which I paid only five centavos, equivalent at present to one cent of our money! The first class below pays ten centavos. I cannot see how they can make expenses. Evening went for supper at the Tracadero Restaurant, a place in the business district To bed early. Mr. Morrow has left so I have my room alone.  
 Feb 21. I can hardly imagine that I have left home only 22 days ago. what a succession



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