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Archives Center - NMAH

Leo Baekeland Diary Volume 60, 1940 to 1941

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behind the ~~former~~ cottage formerly occupied by Bryans daughter. (Curry. Curry. He was formerly engaged by the Welsbacht Light Co. Knows Dr. Whitaker very well and the others then engaged by Welsback Co Saturday 19. - All day at home. Bright weather but cold. cold! cold! Northerly 54°F. - Lower in some other parts of Southern Florida

!!

"Frost proof" - town = 28 Tampa = 29 etc etc 20 19 - Our Floor tiles - composition curling up and detach themselves from underlying cement floor on account of their exposed upper surface drying out by the dry cold air.

cold! cold!

- The trouble seems to be that the new red composition tiles have a porous surface which leaves access to moist atmosphere when they are laid in the layer of ~~do~~ black sticky adhesive. - When the air gets very dry and cold as happens in the early winter months, the ~~in~~ inside moisture escapes ~~in the tile~~ through the porous upper surface of the tile and curls upwards. Floor tiles curl again

At the same time the black adhesive below solidifies becomes brittle and the tile lifts itself. If one tries to flatten it it breaks off. - This is mostly the case with the new red large ~~sq tiles~~ " + ~~square tiles~~

All this is not merely theory but strict observation. I can reverse the observation by simply

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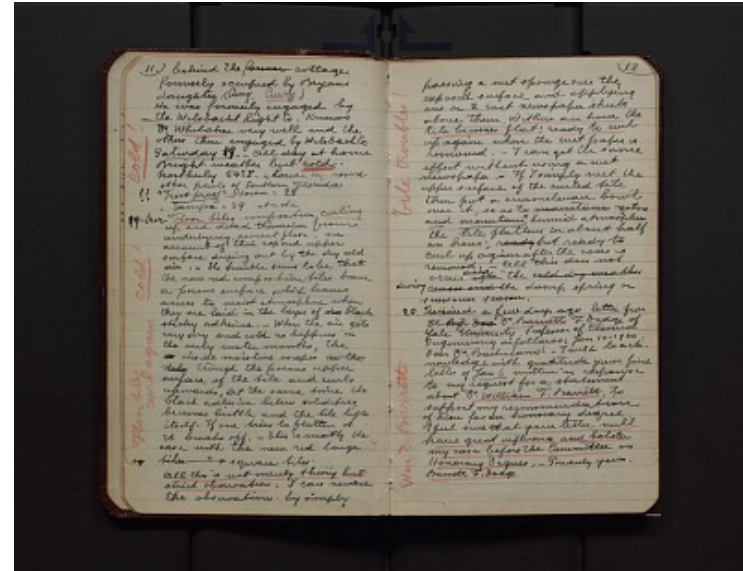
passing a wet sponge over the exposed surface and applying one or 2 wet newspaper sheets above them. Within an hour the tile becomes flat; ready to curl up again when the wet paper is removed.

Tile troubles!

- I can get the same effect without using a wet newspaper. - If I simply wet the upper surface of the curled tile then put an enamelware bowl over it, so as to ~~maintain~~ restore humid atmosphere the tile flattens in about half an hour; ready but ready to curl up again after the cover is removed. - All this does not occur after the cold dry weather ceases and during the damp spring or summer season. 20.

Wm D. Barrett

Received a few days ago letter from ~~Dr. B.J. Dec~~ Dr. Barnett F. Dodge of Yale University, Professor of Chemical Engineering as follows: Jan 10-1940. Dear Dr. Baekeland - I wish to acknowledge with gratitude your fine letter of Jan 6 written in response to my request for a statement about Dr. William F. Barrett, to support my recommendation of him for an honorary degree. I feel sure that your letter will have great



influence and bolster my case before the Committee on
Honorary Degrees. - Sincerely yours,
Barnett F. Dodge

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