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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

CITY SWISS CLUB

ANNUAL DINNER AND BALL

contracted because of the growing water pressure. But in contracting it changed its density. This had to be done at the same rate as that of the ambient water, otherwise it would either descend uncontrollably until it became crushed, or rise again to the surface.

The submarine eventually settled at the desired depth of 600 ft. and started to drift with the current, averaging 1.5 knots during the first two or three weeks and accelerating to the unexpected speed of 5 knots towards the end of the journey. A ship was accompanying it above and communications with the expedition were established at regular intervals.

The two oceanologists were busy measuring such parameters as the salinity of the sea, the speed of sound and the sonic absorption coefficient of the water they traversed, they plotted the depths of the sea bed continuously and made constant gravitational measurements. The prow of the craft was equipped with a large observation window from which it was possible to observe marine life outside. Mr. Picard said they didn't see as many fishes as expected, but planctons appeared in unexpected quantity and variety. He related the surprise attack of the craft by a swordfish minutes after he had abandoned the observation post after a six-hour wait, despairing of taking any good pictures of sea life.

The NASA psychologist kept himself occupied by searching for bugs and germs in the boat's food and water supply. He also probed the quality of sleep of the crew.

At one time they drifted away from the Gulf Stream and had to be towed back into it. Three weeks later they discovered to their surprise that they were heading due south instead of going north, until they realised that the current was temporarily following the large meanders of an underwater valley.

Their six-week journey ended 1,500 miles to the north of where they had started from and they surfaced off the coast of Nova Scotia. (PMB)

The evening began with a friendly reunion in the Dorchester lobby. There appeared to be a record attendance this year and it required the time of two drinks to file past Mr. Alfred Kuhn, President of the City Swiss Club, Monsieur Keller, our Ambassador, and Mr. Roger Suess, Chairman of the Swiss Economic Council, who greeted us with their respective wives. This was followed by a customary reception and then by a sterling meal, agreeably accompanied by soft music from the Arthur Salisbury Orchestra.

We were ordered to the royal toast by the stentorian voice of the toast master. We drank to the Queen and to Switzerland, each ceremonious toast being followed by a national anthem. We were then authorised to feverishly light our cigars and pick at the luscious "friandises" which traditionally ornate the final stages of City Swiss Club menus.

A number of sharp gavel knocks silenced the assembly again and Mr. Kuhn arose for a short address.

He evoked the memory of a very dear friend of the City Swiss Club, George Ronus, and reminded us of the imminent departure of Monsieur and Madame René Keller. He thanked them both for their support and their openness towards the Colony and expressed the City Swiss Club's regret at seeing them go. In 22 years of English life, complained Mr. Kuhn, he had enjoyed no political right whatever and had never had a say in Swiss affairs. And now he couldn't even prevent our Ambassador from going away! But he was comforted by the thought that what was a loss for the City Swiss Club and the Colony was good for Switzerland.

Mr. Kuhn thanked the "eager beavers" who had helped to organise the evening. He thanked all the firms who had contributed towards the Tombola and expressed particular acknowledgement to Messrs. Lucien Jobin, Eddie Tobler and Louis Ackermann. He welcomed three distinguished guests. They were Miss Andrée Weitzel, head of the Womens Auxiliary Service, whose exposé to the N.S.H. I have reported in a previous page, Sir Eric Berthoud, a British Diplomat of Swiss descent, and Dr. Rolph Bühler, managing director of Gebrüder Bühler and President of the Union of Swiss Chambers of Commerce Abroad.

Monsieur Keller was invited to address us. He turned to the subject of his forthcoming departure, raised before him by Mr. Kuhn, and said that rapid ambassadorial changes in London did not really belong to the Swiss diplomatic tradition. The much longer assignments of his earlier predecessors showed this plainly. But, contrary to the case of Monsieur Olivier Long, called back after a year in London by an international organisation, Monsieur Keller was called back to Berne by his own government. "As disciplined civil servants, we must trust in the better judgment of our masters . . ." humbly said Monsieur Keller, who added that Madame Keller and himself were leaving off with as much good grace as possible. He underlined the privilege which he had enjoyed in serving two terms of office in London (the first being as First Secretary 20 years ago) and having savoured the "well-mannered and civilised British way of life". He added that it would stand him in good stead to remember the "high standards, the cold blood, the level-headedness

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