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ACCORDING TO ANCIENT CUSTOM --

The Mayor and Corporation of Colchester celebrate the opening of Colne Oyster Fishery with "gin and gingerbread" ceremony.

-Essex-

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Picture.:- Oysters are now in season, particularly the Colchester variety. Oyster hunting--

--has commenced, and you will see the--

--excitement of the first day's chase. The result is a good bag - - a good--

--drag in this case. The Mayor brings up the catch - - er - - they haven't tasted them yet, of course ! But you see what I mean ! His Worship--

--performs the 900-years old ceremony of opening--

--the beds. He makes an address to one of the--

--natives and - - well, you will see for yourselves. Apparently the sample slips over satisfactorily. It's evident that Mr. Mayor is an epicure.

Why stop at one ? The Roman Emperor, Vitellus, ate over--

--500 at one meal. Three cheers for His Majesty King George are given, and then comes the gin and gingerbread. Why gin, and why gingerbread ? - - after oysters - - I don't know ! The King's health is drunk--

--by everyone, and everybody's else's health is--

--drunk by everybody else. And the ceremony is called "Oyster Tasting"!