

2558/41

G R E A T " O P E N I N G " D A Y .

COLNE OYSTER FISHERY.

---

Picture.:- The fact that there is an 'R' in the month means a lot to Colchester. Councillor Cross, the Mayor of Colchester, declares the close season for oysters at an end, and the exciting sport of oyster hunting commences. Service of gin and ginger-bread prepares the slippery way for the first swallow of the season. This ceremony is about nine-hundred years old, but Colchester's oysters are usually fresher than that. The Mayor now brings up the first catch. By 'brings up' I mean that he hauls it up. His Worship then delivers an address of welcome to the natives, giving touching references to their aristocratic breeding, their invaluable work in the cause of good taste and so on, down to the fundamentals. A lady said they were "dear little things." And at 5/- a dozen, we agree !