VICTORIA SEMI-WEEKLY COEONIST, FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 1904.

(From Our Correspondent with Lieur Colonel Hall's Forces.) Colwood Race Course, June 20, m .- Victoria is saved. The Rodd Hi fortress, yesterday seriously threa ened by the enemy, still stands inta. at the entrance to Esquimalt harbo All possible avenues of advance on th city are covered, and the invaders hav

city are covered, and the invaders have been hurled back from the hills of Col wood, and have retreated, with some confusion, behind the trenches of their camp on the Langford Plains. Their total losses have not yet been estimat-ed, but quite a number have been tak-en prisoners, including three officers. A field gun also has been captured. That is the result of the fighting which commenced at 9:30 this morning and continued until after the hour of noon, and it is due to the good general ship of the officer commanding, the ex-cellent manner in which his plans were carried out by the officers under him, and the cool gallantry of the non-com-missioned officers and men of the Fifth Regiment and the reinforcing detach-ments of Royal Engineers and Royal Artillery.

The Sham Fight

The Advance of Lt. Col. Whyte Forces Checked By Colonel Hall.

Scene of the Battle Was Aroun Race-Course-Honors Civided.

At Colwoo

missioned officers and men of the non-com-missioned officers and men of the Fifth Regiment and the reinforcing detach-ments of Royal Engineers and Royal Artillery. It was late on Sunday evening when Lieut.Colonel Hall, commanding the Fifth Regiment, R. C. G. A., encamped at Macaulay point, received des-patches announcing that Lieut.Colonel Whyte with a strong force consisting of the Sixth D. O. C. Rifles from Vau-conver, had landed at Nanaimo and after capturing that city had made a rapid movement by railroad and steam-ship to the south and had encamped at Langford Plains, trheatening the se-curity of the Rodd Hill fortres. A council of officers was immediately held and preparations were made to at-tack the invaders on the following day. The camp was early astir. The morn-ing broke cloutly and cold and a few light showers of rain fell while a hasty breakfast was being served to the men. At 7 o'elock the regiment was drawn up in line, and ammunition having been served out, the force marched out of camp and took the road for Esquimalt, arriving at the harbor shortly before S o'clock. There a steam transport was in waiting and the force was carried ators the harbor to Rodd Hill where Souts having been sent on ahead, the coluwod hotel at nine o'clock with-out misadventure. There the column was reinforced by detachments of Roy-al Engineers and Royal Artillery with two 13-pounder guns. A short council of war was held, and then Golonel Hall contenest of the Colwood racecourse, and accordingly, Colonel Hall decided to advance as quickly as possible in orthers of the Colwood racecourse, and accordingly, Colonel Hall decided to advance as quickly as possible in orther to take up a position to the west and south, covering all avenues by which the enemy might advance to wards the city. A detachment under Lieut. Patton

which the enemy might advance to-wards the city. A detachment under Lieut. Patton was hurried forward with orders to approach Langford station and if pos-sible to capture it and hold the railway y line, and other detachments were sent is north and northwest to occupy the flanks of the position which Colonel Hall had decided to hold. A general advance was then made, and at 9:15 Colonel Hall and his staff started for the scene of the expected conflict. Firing was soon heard from the left, and an orderly riding up reported that the enemy's scouts had been sighted east of the racecourse. Your correspondent accompanied Col-

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east of the racecourse. Your correspondent accompanied Col-onel Hall and his staff to the centre of the position, where an excellent view of the field of battle was secured. Our lines extended in a semi-circle, more or less, from the southwest to the east of the racecourse, which lay right be-low the centre, which occupied a hill with excellent cover/ for both infantry and guns. The left flank, extending to the east about half a mile, occupied lower ground, but was amply protect-ed by trees and brush. It, was there that the hottest part of the engagement took place. In the event of the left flank being turned Colonel Hall ordered shelter trenches to be thrown up to pro-tect the centre and this work was car-ried out promptly by the Royal Engi-neers. In the meantime firing on the externe teet the centre and this work was car-ried out promptly by the Royal Engi-neers. In the meantime firing on the extreme left continued, and before 10 o'clock the enemy had onened rifle fire all along their line, which was seen to lie some 800 yards in front, and beyond the open ground of the racecourse. Soon after the enemy's position had been thus determined Captain Currie's two 13-pounders came into action. The guns had been splendidly placed on the hill, right in the centre of the position overlooking the plain below and well screened by dense timber, while sup-porting companies of the Fifth lay con-cealed colse by. One of the enemy's guns came into view some 600 yards away and was promptly put out of ac-tion by two well-directed shells from Captain Currie's and Lieutenant Booth's 13-pounders. A few minutes later a body of the enemy attempted rashly to cross over to a more ad-vanced position in the open, and the guns opened fire on them and drove them back.

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