

# Fair suck of the sav. Glimpses of the saveloy in Australia

January 2024

Before the frankfurter roll (1931), before the hotdog roll (1922), there was the saveloy roll (1911) a hot red sausage snuggling between the sides of a cloven bread roll finished off with mustard or tomato sauce dressing, or both.<sup>1</sup>

The earliest mention of the saveloy goes back further to 1851, when it appears in a list of picnic foods.<sup>2</sup> Since then the saveloy has been an integral part of the Australian table culinarily and culturally but it has gone unwritten about in Australian food history. This article redresses this, giving the saveloy 'a fair suck of the sav', a fair go.<sup>3</sup> It does not discuss contemporaries of the saveloy - the frankfurter, the hotdog or the incarnations of the battered sausage on a stick – Dagwood dogs, Pluto pups. They have not made it as an Australian culinary icon that has become part of the Australian vernacular.<sup>4</sup>

## The saveloy

What is the saveloy?

a highly seasoned dry sausage  
modification of French cervelas, from Middle French, from Old Italian cervellata, literally, pig's brains, from cervello brain, from Latin cerebellum<sup>5</sup>

It's no longer made from pigs' brains. These days it has kept the pork in the form of pork trimmings, and also has pork fat trimmings, beef trimmings, and spices all encased in a collagen casing. The red colour comes from boiling it (and it must be boiled before being sold) in red coloured water.<sup>6</sup>

I found this verse recipe in 1910.

Song of the Saveloy  
*Mince saveloy and sausage meat  
intended for the table.  
Shall hold three-fourths of standard meat*

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<sup>1</sup> These dates are for the earliest mention of the sausage in *Trove*, the digital repository for newspapers, magazines, and journals, managed by the National Library of Australia. Frankfurt roll 1931 [07 May 1931 - LATEST DANCE ? - Trove \(nla.gov.au\)](#); hotdog roll 1922 [11 Jun 1922 - HOW SYDNEY EATS - Trove \(nla.gov.au\)](#); saveloy roll 1911 [30 Jun 1911 - WORK AMONG BOYS.THE - Trove \(nla.gov.au\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> 'Return Pic-Nic', *The Sydney Morning Herald* 22 February 1851 p.1 [22 Feb 1851 - Advertising - Trove \(nla.gov.au\)](#)

<sup>3</sup> What is the relationship between fairness and a saveloy? 'The underlying idiom is the old and well-established fair go, which was first recorded in Australian English in 1904. As an interjection, this means 'steady on!; be reasonable!; give us a go!' By 1924, an expanded variant of fair go had appeared: fair crack of the whip. From the late 1960s and early 1970s more variants appeared: fair suck of the sauce bottle (sometimes abbreviated to fair suck), fair suck of the saveloy (sometimes abbreviated to fair suck of the sav), fair suck of the sausage, and finally fair shake of the sauce bottle.' *Ozwords*, October 2009 Volume 18 Issue 2 [ozwords\\_oct09.pdf \(anu.edu.au\)](#)

<sup>4</sup> At times saveloys, hotdogs and frankfurters have fluid boundaries. For example, a 1935 article titled *Philosophy of "Hot Dog" Eating* is about the saveloy. 'Philosophy of "Hot Dog" Eating', *The Herald* 23 August 1935 p.5 [23 Aug 1935 - PHILOSOPHY OF "HOT-DOG" EATING - Trove \(nla.gov.au\)](#) The philosophy: If you've had a win, you'll eat a humble saveloy and roll with relish, and if you've lost, you're so dejected that you'll eat anything.

<sup>5</sup> [Saveloy Definition & Meaning - Merriam-Webster](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Saveloy-Australian \(meatsandsausages.com\)](#)

*As shown upon the label;  
Not more than six per cent of starch.  
Or thirteen of saltpetre  
May mingle in that mystery,  
Beloved of its eater.  
With bismuth brown and roseine red,  
They tint its coat so round,  
And SO<sub>2</sub><sup>7</sup> in grains may be  
Three-point-five to the pound;  
Thus you may make the saveloy  
A healthy aid to human joy.<sup>8</sup>*

It purportedly was written by a member attending a Pure Food Conference in Sydney in 1910. The saveloy was one of the foods discussed. The saveloy came under suspicion of being made with meat unfit for human consumption. Sometimes this proved true.

#### The Mysterious Saveloy

Some revolting revelations were made to-day during the hearing of a charge preferred against John Schumacher, carrying on business as a retail butcher and sausage manufacturer, of having a quantity of beef on his premises intended, but unfit, for human consumption. The Inspector of Nuisances said that when he visited the defendant's shop he saw a quantity of meat cut up into small pieces, which the latter said he intended to make into saveloys, as it was good meat. Witness seized fifty pounds weight of it, which was green and dirty, and in a state of decay. It was unfit for a dog to eat, and the City Health Officer ordered it to be destroyed. Mr. Delohery, in imposing a fine of £10, said it was no wonder that fevers abounded when such meat got into consumption.<sup>9</sup>

Legislators attempted to control what went into saveloys, but some were not convinced that things would change.

The Mysterious Saveloy (The title is not an error. There were two items with the same name several years apart)

Melbourne gossip ('Advertiser') tells us that the Victorian Executive Council, on the recommendation of the Food Standard Committee, has decided to protect -the genera! public from the alleged nefarious practices of the cheap sausage vending profiteer by decreeing that the skin-screened contents of his wares must conform to the following description:

#### Sausage Meat

is raw meat mixed with one or more of the following: Herbs, seasoning, salt, sugar, spices, saltpetre and wholesome farinaceous substance. The writer further comments on this 'unromantic exposure' but does not criticise the formula. It seems to us that the definition still leaves an opening to the wiles of the 'wurst' wizard by such a vague term as

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<sup>7</sup> SO<sub>2</sub>, sulphur dioxide was probably used as preservative.

<sup>8</sup> 'Song of the Saveloy', *The Argus* 1 June 1910 p.8 [01 Jun 1910 - SONG OF THE SAVELOY. - Trove \(nla.gov.au\)](#). This was one of three 'songs' I found about the saveloy. Two others are Appendix 2 and Appendix 3 to this article.

<sup>9</sup> 'The Mysterious Saveloy', *The Maitland Daily Mercury* 26 August 1896, [26 Aug 1896 - THE MYSTERIOUS SAVELOY. - Trove \(nla.gov.au\)](#)

## Raw Meat

without stating whether such is to be procured from certain specified quadrupeds, excluding canines, felines, also banning the flesh of, say, sharks and other meaty beasts. One shudders at the possibilities still existing under such a loose definition, though it specifies the ingredients by which objectionable meats may be camouflaged as to render detection well-nigh (sic) impossible.<sup>10</sup>

There were frequent reports of death by saveloy but not from its contents.

Killed by Saveloy, Bendigo, Tuesday. —

At an inquest into the death of Arthur Charles Smith, 51, who died suddenly yesterday afternoon, medical evidence showed that death was due to asphyxiation caused by choking. Smith was eating a saveloy in an hotel when he was seized with a fit of coughing, and left the hotel. He was found dead in a lane later. Dr. M. Jacobs, who made a post mortem examination, said he found a piece of saveloy about an inch and a half long by three-quarters of an inch thick stuck in Smith's throat.

The inquiry was adjourned.<sup>11</sup>

## Saveloy men

As well as sales by butchers, saveloys were sold from coffee stalls, pie carts and carts of their own. A 'sketch' of a saveloy man at work outside Flinders Street station in Melbourne described him feeding a stove fire wood chips, a pot of boiling water being on the stove into which saveloys were put to warm through, to be fished out when ready and put into a buttered bread roll topped with a dab of mustard. The sketch is Appendix 1.

They would set up their cart somewhere where there was generally good pedestrian traffic like outside main railway stations (as above) or at events where they were sure of having a captive hungry crowd like horse races.

As he was moving out, he passed the saveloy and frankfurt men coming in with the chimneys of their coppers sticking out through the hoods. The "sav" formed an animated group on the flat, and from early morning until the first of the customers arrived, they were hard at it, giving their wares a final message (sic).<sup>12</sup>

*The Saveloy Man*, a poem about them at the races is Appendix 3.

One saveloy man had an interesting approach to getting customers:

### Saveloy Seller's Ruse

But I think the palm must be given to the saveloy vendor who used to call out the (fire) brigade in order to increase his trade. He had a stand on a city intersection, and we discovered that when business was slack he would break the glass, press the button and then wait until the brigade and the crowd arrived to sell his wares. A heavy fine at the City Court put an end to his scheme.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>10</sup>'The Mysterious Saveloy', Burre Record 9 September 1931 p.4 [09 Sep 1931 - THE MYSTERIOUS SAVELOY. - Trove \(nla.gov.au\)](#)

<sup>11</sup>'Killed by Saveloy', The Sun News-Pictorial 23 June 1926 p.8 [23 Jun 1926 - KILLED BY SAVELOY? - Trove \(nla.gov.au\)](#)

<sup>12</sup>'The Only Early Smilers Were Saveloy Men' How the Day Was Spent at the Races – and Elsewhere, The Herald 5 November 1929 p.4 [05 Nov 1929 - How the Day Was Spent at the Races -- and Elsewhere - Trove \(nla.gov.au\)](#)

<sup>13</sup>'Astute Saveloy Vendor Creates Demand for Goods', *The Herald* 1 April 1909 p.3 [01 Apr 1919 - MANY FALSE FIRE ALARMS CAUSE BRIGADE ANNOYANCE - Trove \(nla.gov.au\)](#)

They often operated at night and into the early hours of the morning. They had a reputation for being a focus for the criminal and ruffian element in the city. Here a noise complaint camouflages prejudice:

#### Saveloy Man's Business Not a Necessity

James Price, a saveloy vendor, appeared at the local police court on Tuesday, before Mr. A. Barlow, P. M. , charged with a breach of the borough regulations, namely, occupying a fixed stand in High street, instead of moving along as required by the Act. Price said that he had obtained verbal permission from the Mayor and Town Clerk to occupy the stand. The P.M. intimated that the defendant had committed a breach of the by-laws, and in fining Price 10s, with 13s costs, said saveloys were not absolutely necessary to health, but rest was, and people residing at the hotel adjacent to the saveloy stand could not sleep owing to the noise made by hoodlums congregating round the saveloy merchant's cart.<sup>14</sup>

Shopkeepers complained that saveloy vendors were taking their business. Shopkeepers in the Sans Souci area wrote to Kogarah Council objecting to 'hawkers in the vicinity of the Sans Souci School in the dinner hour selling hot pies and other eatables to the children.' It wasn't the children's health or their corruptibility that the shopkeepers objected to. It was 'the menace of men who pay no rates for the right to trade there (are) going to take the business from them'.<sup>15</sup>

Saveloy vending from carts had its dangers.

#### Saveloy Vendor Killed, Melbourne

At 3.30 this morning Henry Wm. Stack aged 47 a vendor of saveloys and rolls, was fatally injured through his cart colliding with a motor car which was being driven along Sydney Road, Broadmeadows, by Doctor MacKenzie. The accident occurred at a dark portion of the road, where, Doctor MacKenzie says it was impossible to see the cart. Stack was taken to the Melbourne Hospital suffering from fracture of the skull, and leg and shock, and death took place this afternoon. Deceased was a married man living at 218 Albion Street East Brunswick.<sup>16</sup>

#### Domestic culinary uses of the saveloy

If a cook were to be making a meal using saveloys they could buy them from butchers. In 1873 T. Hender, Wholesale and Retail Butcher advertised:

BEST qualities of BEEF and MUTTON at the lowest possible remunerative prices for CASH. Orders from all parts of the District promptly attended to. Prime Corned Beef, Sausages, Saveloys, Ox Tongues, and all descriptions of Small Goods on hand.<sup>17</sup>

What did home cooks do with saveloys?

#### Some Savoury Supper Dishes

The Cookery Expert of "The Australian Journal" gives some appetising dishes in the February issue.

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<sup>14</sup> 'A Saveloy Man's Business Not a Necessity, *The Bendigo Independent* 27 October 1909 p.8 [27 Oct 1909 - A SAVELOY MAN'S BUSINESS. - Trove \(nla.gov.au\)](#)

<sup>15</sup> 'Hot Pies and Saveloy', *The ST George Call* 14 August 1931 p.2 [14 Aug 1931 - HOT PIES AND SAVELOY. - Trove \(nla.gov.au\)](#)

<sup>16</sup> 'Motor Fatality', *The Ballarat Star* 21 September 1914 p.3 [21 Sep 1914 - MOTOR FATALITY. - Trove \(nla.gov.au\)](#)

<sup>17</sup> T. Hender, *Southern Argus* 5 December 1873 p.1 [05 Dec 1873 - Advertising - Trove \(nla.gov.au\)](#)

Cocktail Saveloys with Tomato Sauce and Bread and Butter.  
Sandwiches—Egg and Mint; Banana Raspberry Shortbread.  
The tiny saveloys are, of course, speared with a toothpick or sharpened match, and dipped in a community saucer of sauce. (They have been heated thoroughly, then separated with scissors.)<sup>18</sup>

#### Today's Recipe

##### The Mill Wheel

Heap up a potato salad in the middle of a large plate. Cut some saveloys into slices, lengthways, and arrange to form the spokes of the wheel. Arrange a hard-boiled egg, cut into quarters, at the centre to form into a hub. Make an outer ring of lettuce, endive, or watercress, decorated with slices of hard-boiled egg, sprinkled with chopped parsley and tomato cubes.<sup>19</sup>

#### Recipe Competition

##### Casserole

A coupon saving dish, baked beans and saveloy casserole is today's winning entry in the "Brisbane Telegraph" competition. Mrs. I. Darvall; 5 Valentine Street, Toowong, submitted it.  
Ingredients: 6 saveloys, 1 large tin baked beans, 2 large tomatoes. Skin and cut saveloys into small pieces. Place in large casserole dish. Put in baked beans and mix. Slice tomatoes over top. Cover and put into moderate oven until tomatoes are well cooked — about half an hour;  
Serves six.<sup>20</sup>

But the crowning glory of the saveloy was ... the battered sav.

#### Wartime Recipe

##### Saveloys in Batter

Served with chip potatoes the following recipe makes a tasty dish for any meal. It was sent in by Mrs G. B. Mayers, of Farrington Street, Alderley, who wins today's prize in the wartime recipe competition..

Beat 1 egg and sufficient flour and milk to make nice batter, season with pepper and salt. Now take four saveloys, skin them, and split them down lengthwise in four. Dip pieces in batter and fry in pan of hot fat.<sup>21</sup>

### **The saveloy in the cultural life of Australia**

From the earliest reference to the saveloy in 1851 it's evident that the saveloy had by then already become one of the foodstuffs that are taken to social events in the colony along with tins of ham, game (snipe, wild duck, pigeon) and tins of vegetables (asparagus, peas, cauliflowers). Saveloys were suggested as an alternative to potted meats when hiking, cooked in a billy.<sup>22</sup> They were the 'half-time appetiser of football crowds and popular snack of late and early city habitues' so embedded that a rise in prices was a news item in 1938.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> 'Some Savoury Dishes' Women's Corner, *Kimba Dispatch* '11' February 1938 p.1 [11 Feb 1938 - Women's Corner. - Trove \(nla.gov.au\)](#)

<sup>19</sup> 'The Millwheel' Today's Recipe, *Cairns Post* 3 July 1940 p.9. [03 Jun 1940 - TODAY'S RECIPE. - Trove \(nla.gov.au\)](#)

<sup>20</sup> 'Casserole' Recipe Competition, *Brisbane Telegraph* 16 April 1948 p.7 [16 Apr 1948 - RECIPE COMPETITION. - Trove \(nla.gov.au\)](#)

<sup>21</sup> 'Saveloys in Batter' Wartime Recipe, *The Telegraph* 7 October 1944 p.4 [07 Oct 1944 - WARTIME RECIFE - Trove \(nla.gov.au\)](#)

<sup>22</sup> The Girls' Club. A section for the younger set, *Saturday Evening Express* 15 April 1933 p.11 [15 Apr 1933 - The GIRLS' CLUB - Trove \(nla.gov.au\)](#)

<sup>23</sup> 'Saveloys Price goes Up', *News* 10 May 1938 p.5 [10 May 1938 - SAVELOY PRICE GOES UP - Trove \(nla.gov.au\)](#)

In 1928 'Hungry, down-at-heel men; breakfasted on porridge, saveloys and rolls provided by the Salvation Army waited till dawn today in Bennet's lane of Little Lonsdale street, for the Salvation Army soup kitchen.<sup>24</sup> 1939 along with hot meat pies they were distributed to striking men for breakfast to help sustain them for an indefinite time.<sup>25</sup> Also in 1939 at a Labor Day march 'the organised unemployment movement (whose) vehicle displays voiced all their demands. On one lorry, a string of saveloys over a bowl of soup, served as the "Australian Coat-of-Arms" and "Susso Flag".<sup>26</sup> They were sold from stalls for fundraisers like that in 1940 at Port Pirie (South Australia) where the A. L. P Women's Committee sold them at a Labor Day parade to raise funds for the Fighting Forces Comforts Fund.<sup>27</sup>

Saveloys were sold for 6d at a saveloy and roll supper at the Lyric Theatre's dance night.<sup>28</sup> They featured in celebratory dinners of sports and social clubs, like the saveloy dinner for the Echuca East Football team to mark the opening of the football season in 1947.<sup>29</sup> Imperial saveloys were the subject of a 1962 cookery demonstration at Woolworth's Food Fair Stores.

In 1931 they had entered the realm of Australian humorous sarcasm with it being said of some Members of Parliament's perceived incompetence that 'that they could not run a saveloy stall'.<sup>30</sup>

### Saveloys and children's health

In 1888 a correspondent to *The Queenslander* proposed saveloys be sold at school for their health benefit

What I should try to do if I were an influential member of a State school committee would be to plan so that pupils could obtain a hot potato or two, and a boiled egg, a saveloy, a Scotch pie, or some such inexpensive dainty during the noon recess at the lowest possible cost. ... Few parents—none I am sure of those who could afford it—would grudge the trifling outlay which would be sufficient to procure so great a comfort for their children. Every mother will, I think, approve of this suggestion. The fact that children come home from school not merely hungry, but almost ravenous, seems to show that the cold and untempting food eaten at noon, and the too often doubtful water afterwards imbibed, does not furnish a sufficient stay from early morning till late in the afternoon. How they would enjoy a steaming suet dumpling, a baked apple, a sausage—any one of a dozen wholesome and appetising morsels, none of which need cost above a penny.<sup>31</sup>

In 1945 Mrs E. A. Waterworth was of quite the opposite opinion. Addressing the National

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<sup>24</sup> 'Suffering from Cold' Hungry Men, *Advocate* 4 June 1928 p.5 [04 Jun 1928 - HUNGRY MEN. - Trove \(nla.gov.au\)](#)

<sup>25</sup> 'Men in Stay-in Strike at Mortlake', *The Newcastle Sun* 19<sup>th</sup> August 1939 p.9 [19 Aug 1939 - 900 MEN IN STAY-IN STRIKE AT MORTLAKE - Trove \(nla.gov.au\)](#)

<sup>26</sup> 'Four Thousand March in the Streets' Labor Day Holiday, *The Herald* 20 March 1939 p.8 [20 Mar 1939 - LABOR DAY HOLIDAY - Trove \(nla.gov.au\)](#)

<sup>27</sup> 'Procession and Sport in Pirie' Labor Men's Annual Celebration *Recorder* 5 October 1940 p.3 [05 Oct 1940 - WORKERS' DAY OUT ON MONDAY - Trove \(nla.gov.au\)](#)

<sup>28</sup> 'Tonight's Dance at the Lyric' Local and General, *North-Eastern Advertiser* 30 June 1939 p.2 [30 Jun 1939 - Local and General. - Trove \(nla.gov.au\)](#)

<sup>29</sup> 'Echuca East Club', *The Riverine Herald* 30 April 1947 p.1 [30 Apr 1947 - ECHUCA EAST CLUB - Trove \(nla.gov.au\)](#)

<sup>30</sup> 'Member Insists that Politicians Could, Run Saveloy Stalls', *The Sun News-Pictorial* 3 October 1931 p.4 [03 Oct 1931 - Member Insists That Politicians Could, Run Saveloy Stalls - Trove \(nla.gov.au\)](#) Later culinary versions of decrying incompetence included that someone could not run a chook raffle.

<sup>31</sup> 'Children's Lunches' *The Queenslander* 28 July 1888 p.134 [28 Jul 1888 - THE HOUSEKEEPER. - Trove \(nla.gov.au\)](#)

Council of Women she said: 'I think there should be a campaign against the saveloy and meat pie, which still provide the staple diet for our school boys.'<sup>32</sup> It isn't clear from the report whether the school tuck shop/ canteen was selling the pies and saveloys or whether they were being bought from a saveloy man outside the grounds.

### **A fair suck of the sav**

This article has described the life of the saveloy in its domestic culinary and cultural uses in Australia over 100 years. The saveloy has had a rich and varied life; brushes with the law; raising funds for charitable works; sustaining miners on strike; sustaining the out-of-luck horse racing attendee; inspiring a decorative salad; and being adopted into the vernacular Australian humour, than which there are few greater cultural honours. It redresses the failure of Australian food writers, me included, to consider and document the integral part the saveloy has played at the Australian table.

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<sup>32</sup> 'Saveloy and Pie Diet Condemned', *The Mercury* 16 November 1945 p.8 [16 Nov 1945 - Saveloy And Pie Diet Condemned - Trove \(nla.gov.au\)](#)

## Appendix 1.

### Little Melbourne Sketches

#### The Saveloy Man

Stand in front of the railway entrance at Flinders street tonight, and you will see him bent above his furtive engine, with its brass funnel, its cockpits, its tongues of darting flame. Something of the old childish glory of the fire engine seems still to hover round the spot. Frequently you will see him trudging up the hill as midnight strikes above him in the sky. He is a tiny, pathetic figure, drowned in the immense bowl of darkness and night.

With the methodical march of one who has immense responsibilities, he worms up to his corner, and sets his furnace going. His fuel has been carefully whittled into chips of exact dimensions: If it doesn't burn well he flings kerosene down the chimney, and there is a rush of fire into the air, like a little hell on wheels. When his water is boiling, he produces from nowhere a handful of uncooked saveloys — dry and wrinkled like Egyptian mummies. They slide into the boiler with a hiss. In a moment he is ready to serve you for a paltry fourpence.

Gravely, with profound dignity, he opens the lid, peers intently into the smoke, and fishes a sausage out with his ancient tin trident. For a moment there is a sizzle of oils, the splutter and the blast of cookery, and one can sense the chain of luscious, bubbling creatures, gilded with running liquid, puncturing themselves with little jets of steam. Now the sausage-man halves his prey, with one sweep of a blade, from tip to tip; its fuming, pink interior is buttered with a magic sauce, surely not mustard. He slams it into a roll rather sadly. It is yours. You can have the beautiful thing for fourpence. As you eat it he regards you moistly and intently; there is no pleasure in his gaze. Sometimes he sighs.

This is Melbourne's only night-club. It is the restaurant for all those strange wanderers who arrive suddenly in the frost of the electric lamps, and depart again into the darkness. Thieves and watchmen, beggars and strayed revellers, he apportions to each his sausage and his proper dab of mustard. He contemplates the procession moodily, but without surprise. He listens stonily to their jests, examines their fourpences with beady eyes, and plunges a mournful fork amongst his saveloys.

For a long time I wondered where these beings practised their untrained hand on the sausage. Then, one night, I stumbled on a rare and touching sight. It was a small, solemn youth being instructed in the awful mysteries of the craft. He chopped the chips, he fed the fire, he inserted the naked saveloys. He actually polished the wonderful brass chimney. All this he did under the cold, clammy, critical eye of the maestro, the finished sausage-man. Some day, I suppose, he will save up for an engine of his own, borrow a few saveloys, and strike out into the world for himself. It may be that I shall buy a sausage from the lad.

Some of these sausage-men at the Flinders street corner have been regular nightly monoliths for years. One of them told me he had been selling sausages to Melbourne's night life for more than 15 years. I asked him how many thousand saveloys this represented; but he shook his head vaguely. "A man couldn't dig his way out of all that sausage with a steam shovel he said. And as he said it, he put another saveloy into its roll, and took his four-pence dreamily."<sup>33</sup>

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<sup>33</sup>'The Saveloy Man' Little Melbourne Sketches, *The Herald*, 12 February 1926 p.4 [12 Feb 1926 - LITTLE MELBOURNE SKETCHES - Trove \(nla.gov.au\)](#)



## Appendix 2.

The Saveloy Mayor  
GREAT deeds should be recorded well,  
They tend to make us great;  
And that's the reason why I'll dwell  
On one that chanced of late.  
It was the Mayor of Swipingtown,  
Who said, " I'll make a noise ;  
And though I am of high renown,  
I'll go sell saveloys.  
Saveloys, saveloys  
And though I am of high renown,  
I'll go sell saveloys.  
He sought the saveloy man,  
And then, " My friend," says he,  
" I wish you'd lend your smoking van  
And saveloys to me.  
For I'm the Mayor of Swipingtown,  
And want to make a noise;  
And though I am of high renown,  
I'll sell your saveloys.  
Saveloys, saveloys  
And though I am of high renown,  
I'll sell your saveloys."  
He struck a bargain with the man-  
He does all business neat;  
And then he jumped upon the van,  
And shouted through the street :  
" I am the Mayor of Swipingtown,  
And love to make a noise;  
And though I am of high renown,  
Come buy my saveloys.  
Saveloys, saveloys  
And though I am of high renown,  
Come buy my saveloys"  
And all the corporation folk  
Soon gathered round him when  
With jovial voice his worship spoke,  
" Get up here, gentlemen.  
You know I'm Mayor of Swipingtown,  
And love to make a noise,  
And though I am of high renown,  
I'm selling saveloys.  
Saveloys, saveloys  
And though I am of high renown,  
I'm selling saveloys."  
"Here's at your Mayorship," cried the lot  
And so they all got up :  
Quoth they, " These saveloys are hot-  
By jingo let us sup."

And so the Mayor of Swipingtown,  
And aldermanic boys,  
All men of great and high renown,  
Had spuds and saveloys.  
Saveloys, saveloys  
And all those men of high renown  
Cried, "Spuds and saveloys.  
And so they had a jovial night,  
In singing through each street;  
And everyone they met was tight -  
But they were quite discreet.  
And thus the Mayor of Swipingtown,  
And aldermanic boys,  
All men of great and high renown,  
Sold spuds and saveloys.  
Saveloys, saveloys  
All men of great and high renown,  
Sold spuds and saveloys.<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> 'The Saveloy Mayor' *Melbourne Punch* 2 September 1875 p1 [02 Sep 1875 - THE SAVELOY MAYOR. - Trove \(nla.gov.au\)](#)

### Appendix 3.

The Saveloy Man

By "Purskole"

Witness: "I make my living selling saveloys at race meetings —News Item.

You are sporting coves, what go in droves  
To see the gee-gees on the courses,  
Don't think, per'aps.that other chaps  
Go there for something more than 'orses.  
But, look around an' I'll be bound,  
Somewhere amongst the crowd an' . noise,  
You'll alwuz see the man (that's me)  
What sells the rolls an' saveloys.  
All 'ot; all 'ot; prime saveloys.  
I'm on the spot with luscious, joys.  
An' if you're wise, you men an' boys,  
You'll patternise my saveloys.  
You go ter back some bloomin' ' ;ack,  
Accordin' ter a tip or rumor,  
An' think yer'll win a lot of.tin.  
Which jist is where I see the 'umor.  
My profit's less than you might guess,  
But this undoubtedly is true,  
Chat frequently, as you'll agree,  
I go back 'ome with more than you.  
Come, 'ave a bite, you sporting boys,  
They're 'am allright, my saveloys.  
I've got jist what a bloke enjoys;  
All 'ot; all 'ot; prime saveloys.<sup>35</sup>

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<sup>35</sup>'The Saveloy Man', *Sporting Globe*, 7 September 1932 p.7 [07 Sep 1932 - Ground the Camp Fire - Trove \(nla.gov.au\)](https://nla.gov.au/nla:gov:1932-07-07-07)