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number of people we met. Nicolo is a widower. On his return from the United States 30 years ago, after a stay of 11 years, he bought his farm, married and settled down. His wife died ten years ago, leaving a family of nine. The grown-up members of the family are scattered. One son emigrated to the United States and is now in the Army on the Pacific coast. Another is a prisoner of war still in England and a third is discharged from the Italian Army and helps Nicolo at home. Two daughters are married and both live in the village. One, Filomena, together with her husband and two small children, occupies Nicolo's second village house. The other, Antoinetta, seems to have "married well" and her husband has a fairly large farm some distance from the village. The remaining members are Rosina (19), Orlando (16), Pasquale (14) and Elvira (11), who, with Nicolo and Francesco, work the farm.

During the summer Nicolo, Francesco and Pasquale live in the old house down on the farm, and the girls live in the house in the village, but nearly all meals are taken on the farm. Each day during our stay Rosa and Orlando would arrive on the farm about six o'clock and begin work, Rosa attending to the house and the animals and Orlando picking tobacco leaves, while Nicolo and Francesco began building a straw stack or digging potatoes. Pasquale gathered his goats, cows and sheep and set off with a few ragamuffin cobs for the day's grazing, while little Elvira would arrive about eight or nine o'clock, perhaps with Filomena's children and do odd jobs about the house and garden.

This work continued until about ten o'clock, when Rosa had a meal of cooked vegetables or macaroni ready, and everybody sat down, and each dipped into a common bowl with a fork and a chunk of dry brown bread. After the meal, everyone returned to work, which continued without a break until eight or eight-thirty in the evening, when a similar meal is served. Then the girls set off for the village, where they did a few odd jobs about the house, such as preparing bread or making cheese, and finally to bed at ten-thirty. This routine continued day after day except Sundays, when time was taken off for Church and rest during the afternoon.

### Women as Burden Carriers

Another interesting feature was the heavy work done by the women. All the heavy lifting and carrying was done by them while the men walked behind empty handed. On the next farm a man was doing some building with stone, and four girls about 15 or 16 years old did all the carrying of the stones. They carried two large stones at a time, each about the size of a football, on their heads some 400 yards all day long. No cart, no wheelbarrow, just very cheap and effective labour. Nicolo's daughter Orlando, aged 16, on one day worked from six a.m. to ten a.m. picking tobacco leaves, had about half-an-hour off for a meal, and then resumed her labours with hardly a break till eight p.m. threading the leaves on strings for drying. During this long period she ate only a few handfuls of plums and a couple of pears. After the evening meal

she carried grain in a large basket on her head half-a-mile up a rough stony track to the village. It took two of us to lift the basket off her head and a rough estimate of its weight was 60-70lb. She was accompanied by a grown-up, able-bodied brother. In the house, also, the women are disregarded and go about their work while the men sit and talk. It never occurs to them to ask for help in any task.

### "Nothing to Do Except Work"

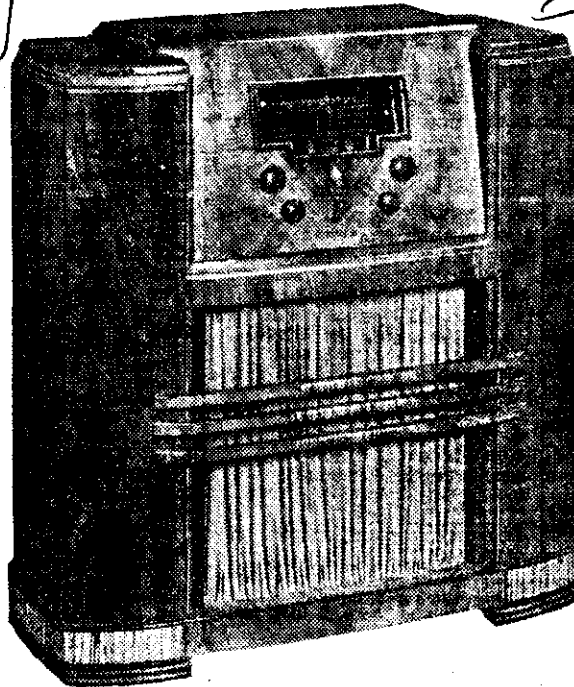
In spite of this, we felt that Rosa at least realised what sort of life was possible under happier circumstances. She told us she was sorry we were leaving and that it would be good to get back to camp to good food and comfortable

quarters. We explained we had been very comfortable and had enjoyed ourselves very much. She shrugged and explained that the village was dirty, which was true, and there was nothing to do except work, and all she had to look forward to was a few years of hard work, marriage, a large family, and an old age in the village. She was also concerned because Elvira, a bright, intelligent, attractive child, would probably not be able to get much education. We felt there was real feeling in the very pathetic and certainly penetrating prophecy. Their future is certainly full of hope for a better life if the economic system can be re-organised, but there is also the certainty of a long struggle before this is achieved.

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