CONCERNS OF THE LIBERALS FOR THE ROMANIAN UNIVERSITY LIFE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE XXTH CENTURY

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Abstract: In the completion of the modernization process of the Romanian society, the education occupied a privileged place at the beginning of the XXth century. It becomes the constant concern of the period, reinforcing the idea that, instruction and education were a guarantee of social and cultural progress.

For this purpose, a special place belongs to the National Liberal Party, which believed that only through the spread of the enlightenment culture, the nation will know, appreciate and use, the civil rights enshrined in the Constitution.

Key-words: liberalism, education, reform, progress, science

Undoubtedly, the education is an important milestone in the completion of the modernization of the Romanian society, at the beginning of the twentieth century.

Education, "the most important formative power of a society" as it was considered, became a constant concern of this period, under the belief that training and education were a guarantee of the social and cultural progress.

After setting up the national state and gaining the independence, in the middle of the era of institutionalizing principles, there is a keen interest in education and educational issues.

In the late XIXth and early XXth century, the development of education had a pronounced rhythm, due to a significant growth of the number of the Romanian university's graduates.

For this purpose, a special place has, by the measures adopted, the National Liberal Party with it's program of Iasi in 1892, which contained important provisions on education, revealing the fact that two thirds of rural and urban primary schools, most of secondary and high schools, secondary schools, normal schools of different steps, bridges and roads schools and the two universities, were due to them.

The program says that the National Liberal Party, consistent with its past, understood its role and mission towards the nation and the leading democratic ideas [1]. It was also aware that the final emancipation of the Romanians under former privileged will result and will enter into morals only when, by the proliferation of the enlightenment culture, the people will be put in a position to know, appreciate and use the civil rights enshrined in the Constitution.

The National Liberal Party believes that only the school can provide the entire people's intellectual development and physical independence, the program invoked actions regarding the construction of school premises, equipping schools with needed teaching materials, organizing the whole education for all citizens' needs and callings in every direction of culture to be satiated, preparing teachers to provide instruction and a proper education for the citizens and an independent position of teachers at all levels [2].

Placing higher education on a scientific basis and its democratization will be possible in the period of the Liberal governance at the beginning of the XXth century by a school policy carefully monitored especially by one who was to be noted as a "scholar man", Spiru Haret.

With his characterized contemporary sense, his determination of programmatic and real opportunities to discern in a critical way, this great teacher has proposed innovative solutions for the development of higher education.

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By the laws related to his name the higher education has seen a clear stage of progress. Specifically, in order to a better specialization, was reinstated, at the suggestion of the National Liberal Party, the National School of Bridges and Roads, and later will appear the Polytechnics.

Under the Liberal government is reorganized the School of Veterinary Medicine and the Special School of Forestry [3].

This was possible through a process of specialization, manifested by multiplying the courses and holding seminars and laboratories in the two Universities of Iasi and Bucharest, the National Liberal Party's work.

After 1900, the profile of the two universities is filled with new faculties, among which are mathematics, chemistry, physics, and natural sciences.

To these we add the fact that a number of disciplines have diverged by the emergence of new departments organic and inorganic chemistry, theoretical mechanics, the botany, zoology, geology, mineralogy, petrography. In turn, the medicine will have a diversified profile that will allow preparing highly qualified specialists known in time as scientists in the frame of the "scientific Europe".

Liberal governments, which were followed after 1900, managed to transform the Romanian universities in true strongholds of advanced sciences, democracy and progress, with large openings to all the horizons of knowledge [4]. The whole Romanian university approach of early XX century could not have continuity, without involving the fundamental institution known as the Romanian Academy, living shape of the national spirituality, which is another product of the National Liberal Party.

Great teachers like Spiru Haret, A.D Xenopol, Vasile Conta, Alexandru Philippide, Titu Maiorescu, Petre S. Aurelian, Anghel Saligny, perfected scholars and teachers, became members of the Romanian Academy, led for a period of time by the liberal having D.A.Sturdza as general secretary [5].

Concluding, we retain the meritorious contribution of the National Liberal Party in the Romanian academic perfection.

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