NATIONAL AND PATRIOTIC IDEAS OF MYKHAILO BAZNYK

In modern pedagogical science, scientific research devoted to the historical past occupies a prominent place, which made it possible to return from oblivion the names of many enthusiasts of national and cultural progress of the Ukrainians of the first half of the twentieth century. Among the Ukrainian teachers, one of the leading places belongs to the Galician teacher Mykhailo Baznyk. His writings reflect on the purpose of education, the principles, content and methods of teaching in secondary schools, the role of schoolteachers in the national upbringing of children.

Educational activity and pedagogical views of Mykhailo Baznyk are presented in the researches of V. Veryha, V. Oliinyk, I. Pelypeiko, F. Pohrebennyk, and Ya. Pogrebennyk.

Mykhailo Baznyk was born on June 3, 1889 in the village Tseliiiv in Husiatyn district of Ternopil region. He studied at the Ternopil Gymnasium, and during 1908-1912, he visited the Ukrainian Teachers’ Gymnasium in Zalishchyky. He started his teaching path in the village of Vervolyntsi, and later worked in Lysivtsi in the Zalishchyky district (1913-1914). Mykhailo Baznyk has devoted his entire life to teaching and public activities.

Mykhailo Baznyk has published articles in pedagogical journals (“Uchytelske slovo”, “Zhyttia i znannia”, “Shliakh navchannia i vykhovannia”, “Dobrobut”), where he defended the right of Ukrainians to their mother tongue and national schools.

In the 1920-30’s, Mykhailo Baznyk was already fighting for the Ukrainian national school with the means of the printed word. His works have been published on the pages of the Lviv press: Cinema on School Service (1927), New (Modern) Ways of Contemporary Upbringing and Education (1927), Teacher’s Self-Diagnostics, Paedology as the Basis for Upbringing and Education (1928), Kerschensteiner’s Understanding of the Creative School (1928), The People’s School and the Choice of a Title (1930). He wrote the article Methods of Pedagogical Research and textbook Choosing a Title, A Practical Textbook for School and
Unfortunately, they were not published for reasons beyond author’s control.

While working as a teacher of the Ukrainian language and literature, Mykhailo Baznyk sought to instill in his students love to their native literature and to create a sense of national pride. He often told students about the works of Lesia Ukrainka, T. Shevchenko, I. Franko, and cited their works by heart.

Nationality was the dominant idea of Mykhailo Baznyk’s pedagogical system. As a supporter of the national education system, he sought to answer the following questions: what should be the Ukrainian school, what means and ways can it be built with. He argued that a national consciousness must be formed in the process of education and upbringing in a national school, since without it a complete inner world of a person and a citizen is impossible. ‘The present school, as M. Baznyk wrote, must change from a teaching institution to a school of character education and national consciousness in the hands of the Ukrainian teacher’ [3; p.2].

Mykhailo Baznyk regarded Ukrainian pedagogy as an integral part of European pedagogical thought, saw their inseparable interconnection, expressed his views on the organization of public education in Ukraine, and sought to adapt them to Ukrainian realities.

Mykhailo Baznyk died on October 6, 1976 in Kyiv. He is buried in Baikove Cemetery.

The views he expressed at the beginning of the twentieth century on the issues of the national school resonate with the requests of modern educators. That is why it is necessary to return the name and glory of the tireless promoter of public education to the national pedagogy.