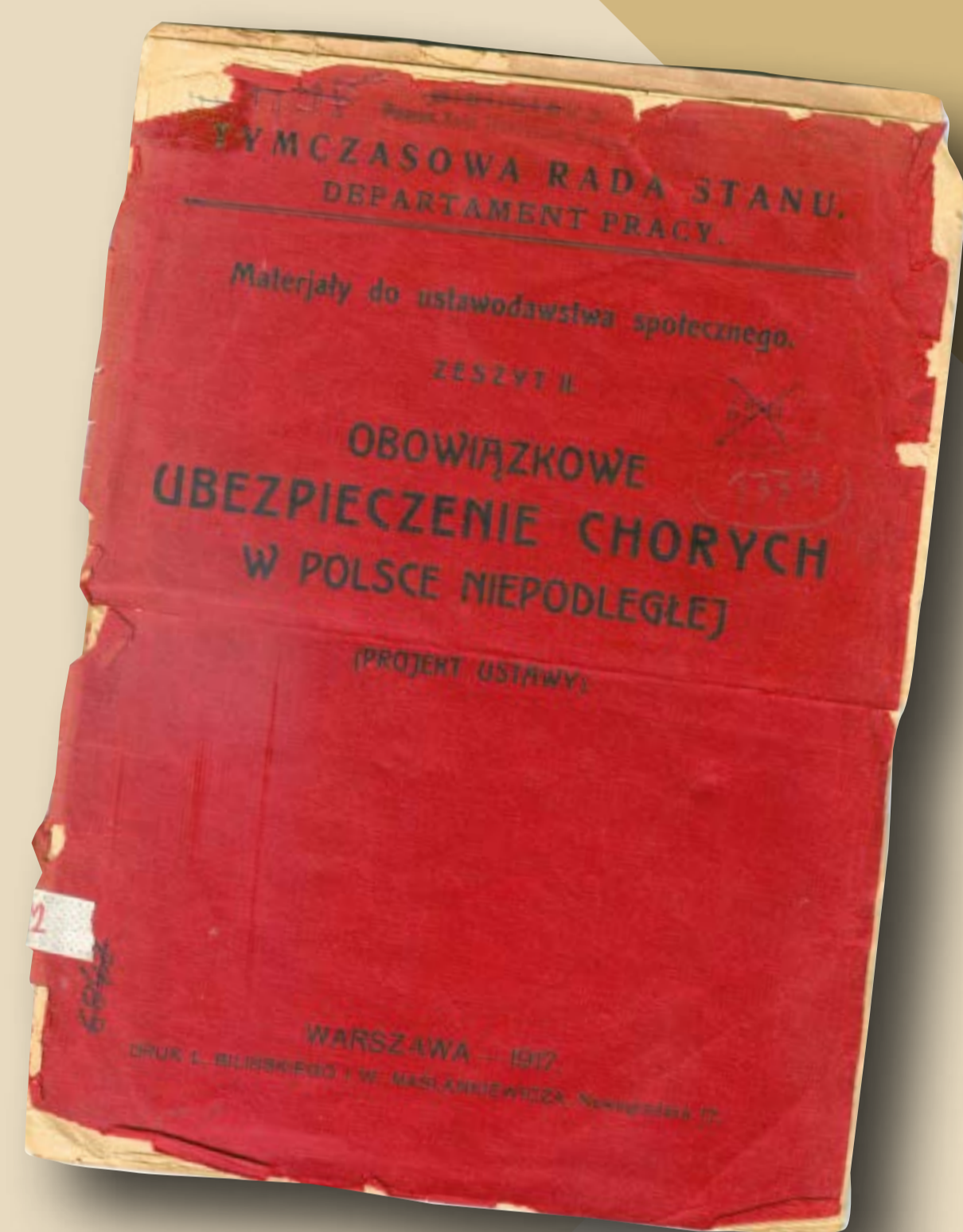


*J. Piłsudski*



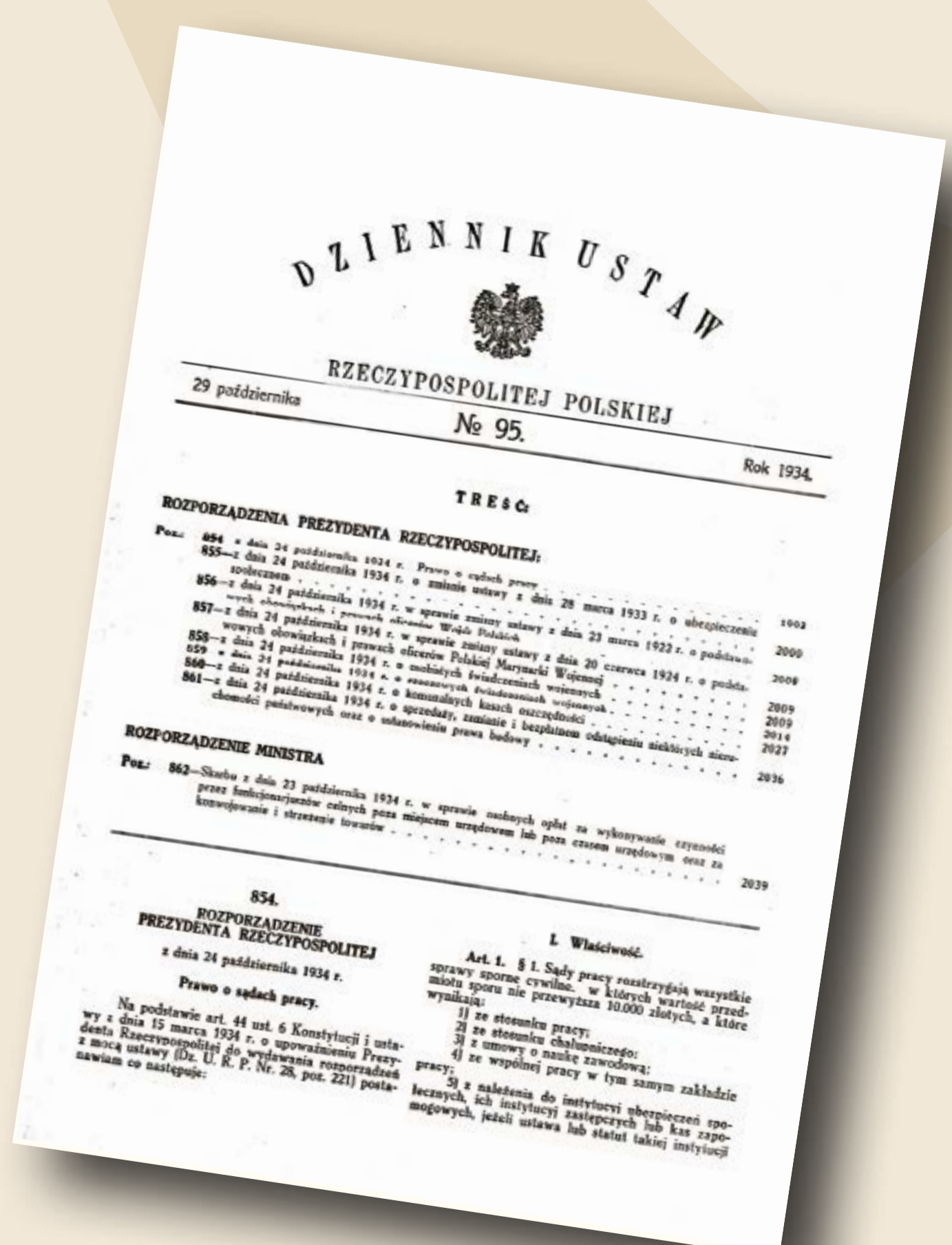
Decree of 11 January 1919 on compulsory sickness insurance was signed by the Provisional Head of State, Józef Piłsudski.  
Narodowe Archiwum Cyfrowe (National Digital Archives), Rządowe Centrum Legislacji (Government Legislation Centre)



Draft law on compulsory sickness insurance, drafted by the Department of Labour of the Provisional Council of State in 1917. Only 500 copies of this draft law have been printed. One of them can be found in the library at ZUS Headquarters.  
ZUS collections



On 24 October 1934, the President of the Republic of Poland, Ignacy Moscicki, signed a Decree establishing the Polish Agency of Social Security.  
Narodowe Archiwum Cyfrowe (National Digital Archives), Rządowe Centrum Legislacji (Government Legislation Centre)



Journal of Laws with the Integration Act.  
Government Legislation Centre

The first attempts to introduce social insurance in Europe were in the 1880s. It was a time of enormous socio-economic changes that affected all aspects of people's lives. The first social insurance laws in Europe were introduced by German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck in 1883-1889. At that time, Poland was under the partitions, so the legislation of the three different partitioners was in force on its territories. During the First World War, work started on establishing the Polish insurance system. After regaining independence in 1918, the founders of Polish statehood decided to consolidate post-partition legislation and create own social insurance system. The work on the system lasted about 15 years and culminated in the adoption of two legal acts - the Act of 28 March 1933, integrating the social insurance system, and the Decree of the President of the Republic of Poland of 24 October 1934, amending the integrating act and establishing the Social Insurance Institution.

## Establishment of the Polish social insurance system



German Insurance Card, 1916.  
ZUS collect, Rybnik Branch



Meeting of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland, Warszawa 1933.  
Narodowe Archiwum Cyfrowe (National Digital Archives)



Certificate of morality - one of the documents required for employment in the Social Insurance Company, 1926.  
ZUS collections, Rybnik Branch



Employees of the White Collar Workers' Insurance Institution. In the background, headquarters of the Institution. Poznań 1930.  
ZUS collections, Poznań Branch