

## **Abstract**

### **The origin, development and working of the welfare system at the Company of the Emperor Ferdinand Northern Railway in the period 1836–1907**

The objective of this thesis is *The origin, development and working of the welfare system at the Company of the Emperor Ferdinand Northern Railway in the period 1836–1907*. The research is focused on the origin and working of the Retirement Fund, the Sickness Fund from 1874, Sickness Fund from 1888 and the Childrens' shelter of the Emperor Ferdinand Northern Railway Company.

The method of this research was the archival sources, printed sources and literature collection and analysis and then comparison the origin, development and working of Social Security systems at state railways, state administration, members of Habsburg monarchy armed forces and also at other private railway companies in the period of 1836 – 1907.

The sources confirm that the Emperor Ferdinand Northern Railway provided some employees, their widows and orphans with comprehensive care of pension, sickness security and partly also accident insurance through its funds. The company also offered childrens' shelter service, that provided children and orphans with free of charge upbringing and education with the view to preparing them to work for the Northern Railway. The company was not the only that did it and was inspired by their competitors and also the state, nevertheless it was one of the most progressive and their restraint system became a standard for most of private railway companies and then also for k.k. State Railways.

The social insurance development can be observed either from the state point of view, when the Law on Worker Health Insurance came in force in 1888 and was followed by foundation of the Sickness Fund or from Northern Railways point of view because the foundation of the Pension Fund and the Childrens' shelter was based on the shareholders decision.

In past the Czech historiography dealt with this topic in the period of the First Czechoslovak Republic mentioning only concisely 19th century was more focused on the state role and on welfare system origin, development and function in its frame. This Thesis presents more specific information about historical field so far a bit neglected of the origin, development and working of the welfare system throughout the period of so called long 19th century.