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## East of the Line

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## EAST OF THE LINE

*The annual report of the President of this important railway presents some very suggestive facts, bearing upon the development of the Great West ... The report claims that for the transportation of Texas cattle the road is practically without a rival, owing to the immense grass plains and the facilities for herding and fattening on the nutritious grasses.* "The Kansas Pacific Railway," *Manhattan Nationalist*, 26 May 1871

In 1867 the only thing standing between the prized stock of westward-marching settlers and droves of disease-carrying longhorns was an imaginary straight line. The Sixth Principal Meridian was the boundary between east and west, settled and unsettled, tallgrass and shortgrass. On maps and in the history books, the Chisholm Trail falls neatly on the shortgrass prairie side of the line, outside of the Kansas Flint Hills. But in the age of the cattle drives, the railroads, cattlemen, politicians, and citizens who found themselves at odds with any or all of them, learned that straight lines and hard and fast rules did not apply in a land of rolling hills and rich grasses.

OPPOSITE PAGE:  
RED AND GREEN AND IN BETWEEN  
*Hendrik van Leeuwen*