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to import a prefabricated English Pub.

Does the future look rosy for van Gelder? That depends on whether or not he can find enough people who can afford what he has to offer. He is building what may well be the Algarve's most beautiful and complete development. But his ideas, good though they are, cost money, and somebody has to pay. Villa rentals at Vale do Lobo already cost more than double the price of equivalent accommodation at most other resorts along the coast. And the homes he is building are far from cheap. A single-room studio apartment is priced at £ 35,000. One-, two- and three-bedroom villas cost considerably more.

When Sander van Gelder took over Vale do Lobo there was a staff of 300. He now employs 550, and the number is still increasing. There are now some 500 homes; within five years he expects there will be 3,500. That rate of activity should be good for the Algarve.

"If I had known what I was getting into," says van Gelder, "I never would have started. But I think that 90% of the problems shown in the past. Confidence has been restored. And we have a good team. In the next year there should be a good cash flow — and perhaps more help from the authorities."

The Minister of Transport and Communications has confirmed reports that bus and train fares are going up again. He added that the new increase will be "less than the rate of inflation".

RESIDENCE PERMITS

Foreign residents are reminded that residence permits must be renewed before February 28. The charge is 881\$00; 801\$00 in cash and 80\$00 in fiscal stamps.

Permits may be renewed at the offices of Serviços dos Estrangeiros in Faro, Vila Real de Santo António, Albufeira and Portimão and in the Turismo office in Lagos.

ELECTRICAL SYSTEM UNDER EXPANSION

The Algarve's chronic shortage of electricity may soon be a thing of the past. Four new lines are to be installed during 1979, more than doubling the system's capacity.

A new transformer will be put into operation this year at the Aldeia-Nova substation (Vila Real de Santo António) and a new substation at Ferreiras should be serving Albufeira before the beginning of the high tourist season.

By 1981 the whole of the Algarve will be covered by a double-line system which will provide back-up power for emergencies.

The Algarve's use of electricity has increased six fold in the last ten years, from 40 million kilowatts in 1968 to 240 million kilowatts last year.

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a guide to the Algarve

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