What is claimed is:

1. A chain structure comprising:

a sprocket wheel in which a plurality of gear teeth capable of engaging with a chain are formed in an outer peripheral portion; and

the chain in which a pair of side plate members facing to each other are coupled in an endless manner at plural sets in a length direction, and which is wound around gear teeth in the outer peripheral portion of said sprocket wheel,

wherein a drop preventing means for preventing the side plate member from dropping from a wound state to the sprocket wheel is provided in at least a part of the plural sets of said side plate members, and

wherein said drop preventing means is constructed by a protruding plate portion which is parallel to a radial direction of said sprocket wheel, and

wherein said protruding plate portion comprises

a base end plate portion which protrudes out of a center portion of a side plate portion of the side plate member and which extends in a radially inward direction of the sprocket wheel,

an intermediate plate portion which extends from a leading end portion of the base end plate portion and which extends in such a direction that goes away from the side plate portions, and

a wheel plate portion which extends from a leading end portion of the intermediate plate portion in the radially inward direction of the sprocket wheel.

2. A chain structure comprising:

a sprocket wheel in which a plurality of gear teeth capable of engaging

with a chain are formed in an outer peripheral portion; and

the chain in which a pair of side plate members facing to each other are coupled in an endless manner at plural sets in a length direction, and which is wound around gear teeth in the outer peripheral portion of said sprocket wheel,

wherein a drop preventing means for preventing the side plate member from dropping from a wound state to the sprocket wheel is provided in at least a part of the plural sets of said side plate members, and

wherein said drop preventing means is constructed by a protruding plate portion which is perpendicular ~~vertical~~ to a radial direction of said sprocket wheel,

wherein said protruding plate portion comprises

a base end plate portion which protrudes out of a center portion of a side plate portion of the side plate member and which extends in a radially inward direction of the sprocket wheel, and

a horizontal plate portion which extends from a leading end portion of the base end plate portion in a direction that goes away from the side plate portions and in an axial direction of the sprocket wheel, and

wherein said horizontal plate portion is arranged so that an upper surface of a leading end portion of the horizontal plate portion is adapted to be facing a lower surface of a stationary member, and is arranged so that a gap is provided between the horizontal plate portion and the lower surface of the stationary member.

3. A chain structure comprising:

a sprocket wheel in which a plurality of gear teeth capable of engaging with a chain are formed in an outer peripheral portion; and

the chain in which a pair of side plate members facing to each other are coupled in an endless manner at plural sets in a length direction, and which is wound around gear teeth in the outer peripheral portion of said sprocket wheel,

wherein a drop preventing means for preventing the side plate member from dropping from a wound state to the sprocket wheel is provided in at least a part of the plural sets of said side plate members, and

wherein said drop preventing means is provided in said ~~a~~ side plate member having a flight plate attaching portion.

4. The chain structure according to claim 1, wherein an annular projection portion is formed at a location radially further inside than a gear tooth forming portion of the sprocket wheel, said annular projection portion protruding in a thickness direction of said sprocket wheel, and having its axis in common with an axis of said sprocket wheel, and is formed in a circular ring shape,

wherein said intermediate plate portion and said wheel plate portion are arranged to be facing an outer peripheral surface of the annular projection portion with a gap there between, and

wherein the wheel plate portion is arranged so that its leading end portion extends to a position which is placed radially further inside than the annular projection portion of the sprocket wheel.

5~~4~~. The chain structure according to claim 1, wherein said protruding plate portion ~~drop preventing means~~ is provided in said ~~a~~ side plate member having a flight plate attaching portion.

6~~5~~. The chain structure according to claim 2, wherein said protruding plate portion ~~drop preventing means~~ is provided in said ~~a~~ side plate member having a flight plate attaching portion.

7~~6~~. Two sets of chain structures according to claim 1 or 5~~4~~ being arranged in inner sides of a pair of surfaces of a liquid tank, the surfaces facing ~~to~~ each other, ~~within a liquid tank~~ so ~~as~~ that the sets of chain structures ~~to be~~ faced ~~to~~ each other, and a ~~said~~ protruding plate portion ~~drop preventing means~~ is provided only in a side plate member of each set of chain structure, the side plate members are arranged in sides ~~surfaces of the side which face to each other~~ of a pair of sprocket wheels which ~~arranged so as to be~~ faced ~~to~~ each other, or only in a side plate member of each set of chain structure, the side plate member are arranged in sides that are ~~surfaces in an~~ opposite ~~side~~ to ~~the~~ sides of a pair of sprocket wheels which face ~~to~~ each other.

8~~7~~. Two sets of chain structures according to claim 2 or 6~~5~~ being arranged in inner sides of a pair of surfaces of a liquid tank, the surfaces facing ~~to~~ each other, ~~within a liquid tank~~ so ~~as~~ that the sets of chain structures ~~to be~~ faced ~~to~~ each other, and a ~~said~~ protruding plate portion ~~drop preventing means~~ is provided only in a side plate member of each set of chain structure, the side plate members are arranged in sides ~~surfaces of the side which face to each other~~ of a pair of sprocket wheels which ~~arranged so as to be~~ faced ~~to~~ each other, or only in a side plate member of each set of chain structure, the side plate member are arranged in sides that are ~~surfaces in an~~ opposite ~~side~~ to ~~the~~ sides of a pair of sprocket wheels which face ~~to~~ each other.

9~~8~~. Two sets of chain structures according to claim 3 being arranged in inner sides of a pair of surfaces of a liquid tank, the surfaces facing ~~to~~ each other, ~~within a liquid tank~~ so ~~as~~ that the sets of chain structures ~~to be~~ faced ~~to~~ each other, and a ~~said~~ drop preventing means is provided only in a side plate member of each set of chain structure, the side plate members are arranged in sides ~~surfaces of the side which face to each other~~ of a pair of sprocket wheels which ~~arranged so as to be~~ faced ~~to~~ each other, or only in a side plate member of each set of chain structure, the side plate member are arranged in sides that are ~~surfaces in an~~ opposite ~~side~~ to ~~the~~ sides of a pair of sprocket wheels which face ~~to~~ each other.